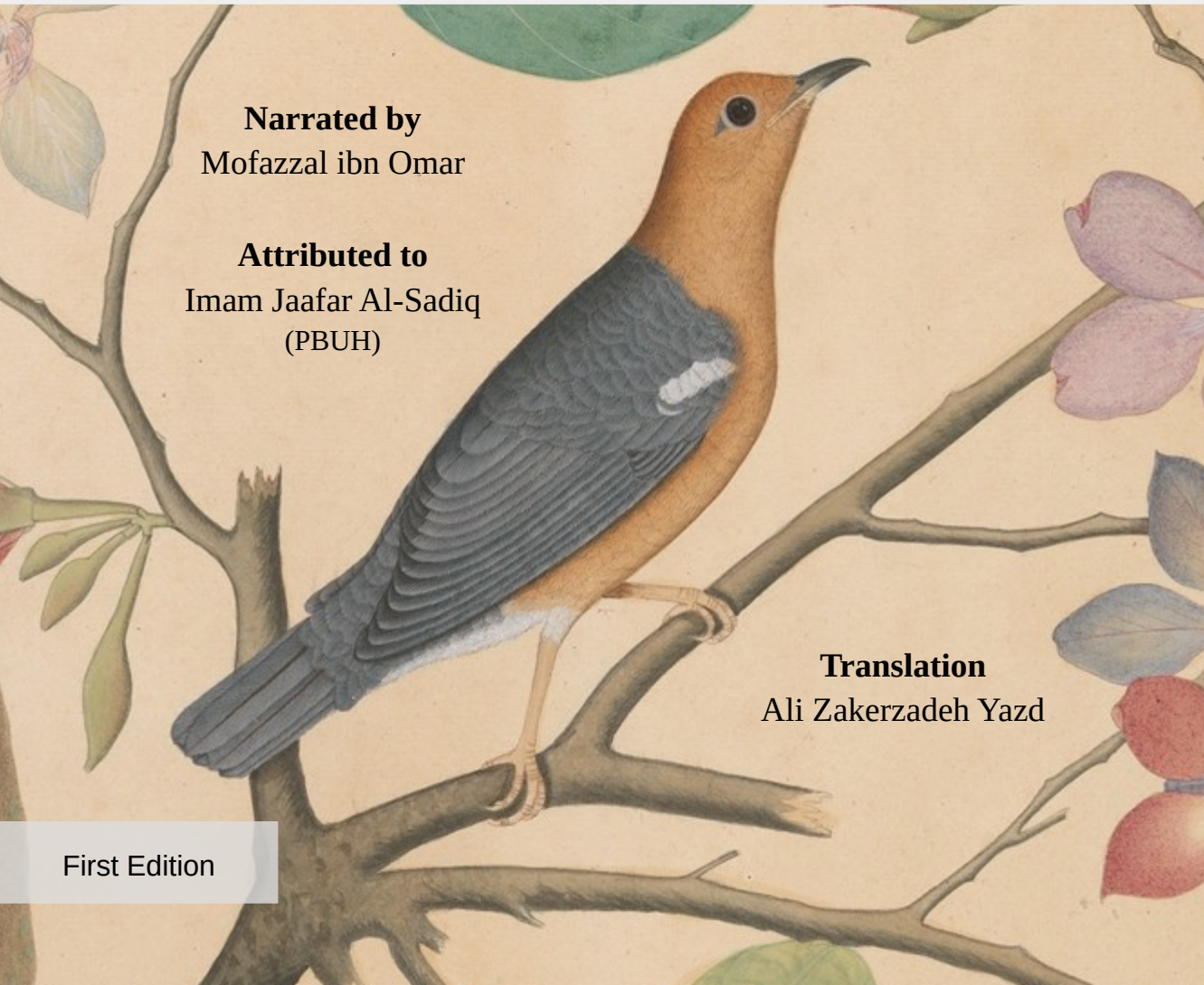
The Wonders of Creation

or "*Tawhid Al-Mofazzal*"



Narrated by
Mofazzal ibn Omar

Attributed to
Imam Jaafar Al-Sadiq
(PBUH)

Translation
Ali Zakerzadeh Yazd

First Edition

In the name of God

The most **Gracious**, The most **Compassionate**

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First Edition of the English Translation

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Introduction

About The Original Book

The original book titled "*Tawhid Al-Mofazzal*", which is in Arabic, is an Islamic Hadith narrated by "*Mofazzal ibn Omar*," a disciple of "*Imam Jaafar Al-Sadiq (PBUH)*," and was written in the 8th century AD. In my opinion, this short book is certainly among the top ten greatest books of all time. It is life-changer, it is soul-savior.

This book is a wonderful mixture of easiness and depth of meaning. On the one hand, it is so easy and enjoyable to read that sometimes you may forget that you are reading a book with such an important subject as God and His Creation. It is almost like a friendly conversation with a wise and kind father. On the other hand, the meanings are so deep and thought-provoking that they will keep you thinking about them even when you have finished reading the book.

For four days, Imam invites you to his home and then takes you to a thrilling trip across the universe, and unveils wonderful wisdom behind many things and makes you think about them deeply. At times, it gets so breathtaking that you lose track of time

and, like Mofazzal himself, suddenly you realize that it is getting late.

As an example, on fourth day, Imam shatters the illusion of evil in Creation so miraculously that you will get astonished. He gracefully argues that there is no such thing as evil in Creation. Reading Imam's arguments is almost like witnessing Moses (PBUH) throwing his staff to turn into a serpent and devour the deceptive tricks of the Pharaoh's magicians.

In short, this great book will change your life for ever and save your soul, God willing. After all, this is what real saviors like Imam do.

That being said, I doubt, however, that this great book would benefit those who are ready to ridicule and reluctant to think deeply. Unfortunately there are some people out there who know a great amount of trifles and details but have forgotten about the big picture and the main purpose. Those are the people who falsely claim that they know everything, and thus are too proud of themselves, and as a result, they are prone to make grave mistakes. Let me tell you a short tale.

Once there was a king who wanted his son to be educated well. So he sent his son to the center of the knowledge of that time and insisted that he should be taught very well. After some years the son returned and the king decided to test his knowledge. So he put his royal ring on his palm and closed his hand to hide it. Then he ordered his son to come to him and asked: "Tell me what do I have in my hand?" The son answered: "O, my father! What you have in your hand must be round, yellow and hollow." The king got excited because the signs were true. So he enthusiastically said: "Then, tell me my son, what do I have in my hand?" The son quickly replied: "The thing you've hidden in your hand must be a sieve!" The king

got shocked and disappointed, and said angrily: "How is it possible that you give so many great signs, but your conclusion is so irrational and stupid? You said a lot of details but you forgot this simple and obvious fact that a sieve can't be hidden in one's hand!"

Yes, it is sad! There are people out there who know so many details and intricacies about history, science and so on and so forth, but they failed to recognize their Creator. They have been lost in a jungle of details and have forgotten the single most important thing they should admit and admire.

About This Translation

This translation is a gift for you, both who are my contemporaries and those who will be born in the future. When I first read this book I was amazed by the amount of wisdom which this short book offers. So, after a while, I decided to translate it to English to make it available for millions of the people around the world. I do not claim that this translation is the best, but I do claim, however, that it has been done with love. I wanted to share with you the enjoyment I experienced and the wisdom I learned by reading this book.

On the technical side, this translation is a "supervised" mixture of human and machine translation. It is "supervised" because I supervised the process. I decided to translate some parts personally and let the machine translate the others. But finally, I reviewed the translated text several times, changed and corrected it if necessary, and made the final decisions.

Every experienced translator knows that machine translation, at least with the capabilities and accuracy that already has, cannot replace the human translator. It only helps him to achieve his goal more quickly, just as a digital dictionary helps him to find the meaning of a word faster than an old dusty paper dictionary.

However, at the end of the day, the human translator is the real boss who supervises and makes the final decisions, and of course, bears the responsibility for the quality of the final translation.

Finally, I should admit that, although I tried to minimize the errors and mistakes, as I am a human and human beings make mistakes, there may remain some errors. I hope the gentle reader will forgive the probable translation errors and enjoy the wisdom of the book itself.

Ali Zakerzadeh Yazd

Tir 1405
Muharram 1448
July 2026

The Beginning

What Happened In The Prophet's Mosque

"*Muhammad ibn Senan*" narrated from "*Mofazzal ibn Omar,*" who said: One day, after evening, I was sitting in Rawza, which is between the grave of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his Minbar[1], and I was thinking about what God Almighty has bestowed upon our master in terms of honor and virtues, and made him worthy of it, and what the general public does not know about his status and is unaware of, and what God Almighty has bestowed upon him in terms of greatness of status and greatness of rank.

While I was thinking about this, suddenly "*Ibn Abi al-Awja,*" who was one of the atheists, came and sat where I could hear him. When he sat, a man from his companions came and sat near him.

Then Ibn Abi al-Awja pointed towards the shrine of the Holy Prophet and said: Indeed, the owner of this grave attained the highest degree of honor, and all the qualities of honor were gathered in him, and in all circumstances his status became greater.

His friend said: He was a philosopher who made a claim of high rank and honorable status and brought several miracles to prove it, which overpowered the intellects, and understandings were lost in it, and minds sank into the seas of thought and returned helpless.

---

1 Pulpit

And when the wise, the eloquent, and the great responded to his call, people entered his religion group by group. So he established his name with the name of his God in Azan[1], which they call out to the mosques in all the places where his call has reached, and his fame has been raised there and his proof has been made manifest, in the mountains, the plains, the sea, and the desert, every night and day, five times, and they repeat it in Azan and Iqamah until his name is renewed every hour and his prophethood is not hidden."

Ibn Abi al-Awja said: Leave the name of Muhammad (PBUH) because my intellect is bewildered by him and my mind is helpless in his work, and speak about the principle upon which Muhammad (PBUH) has raised himself.

So they began to argue about the existence of God, the Creator of the universe, and they took the matter to the point where they said that there is no creator for the universe and no planner for the world, but rather everything is formed by its own nature, without planner or creator. The world has always been like this and will always be like this forever.

Mofazzal said: When I heard these false words from that accursed one, I could not control myself because of the extreme anger and rage, and I said: O enemy of God! You have become an atheist in the religion of God and have denied the Lord who has guided you in various forms and has brought you to this point. If you reflect within yourself and refer to your senses, you will certainly find that the evidences of God and the works of the Almighty are firmly established in you, and the evidences of His existence and power and the proofs of His knowledge and wisdom are clear and evident in you.

1 The Islamic call to prayer

Ibn Abi al-Awja said: O man! If you are one of the motakallems[1], we will speak to you in their style. If you convince us, we will follow you, but if you are not one of them, there is no benefit in speaking to you.

And if you are one of the companions of "*Jaafar Al-Sadiq (PBUH)*"[2], he himself would not address us like this, nor would he argue with us like this, although he has heard our words more frequently than you have heard them, and he would not have cursed us in our address, nor would he have gone beyond the bounds of speech in his response to us.

And he is the owner of patience and moderation, and the lord of wisdom. He is not moved by anger, foolishness, or wrath. He listens to our words and hears our arguments, until we say what is in our minds and think that we have convinced him. Then he nullifies our arguments with a few words, and convinces us with the briefest of words, and we can't find an answer to his words. So if you are one of his companions, speak to us in a manner befitting him.

Mofazzal Meets Imam (PBUH)

Mofazzal said: I left the mosque sad and thoughtful about what Islam and Muslims have been afflicted with, due to the disbelief of this group of atheists and their doubts in denying the Creator of the heavens and the earth.

So I went to my master, Imam Jaafar Al-Sadiq (PBUH). When he saw me broken-hearted, he asked, "What is the matter with you?"

When I told him what I had heard from atheists and naturalists, he said: I will explain to you the wisdom of the Creator, the Almighty, in the creation of the world, beasts, animals, birds, insects, and every living creature, including plants, fruit trees,

1 Islamic theologians
2 Sixth Imam (spiritual leader) of Shia Muslims

edible vegetables and others. Those who take lessons will learn from it, and the knowledge of the believers will increase by it, while the atheists will be astonished by it. Come to me tomorrow morning.

Mofazzal said: I returned home happy and contented with this excellent news, and the night passed long for me because of this heartwarming news.

The First Day: The Men

Mofazzal said: When it was morning, I rushed to the Imam. After being given permission, I entered and stood beside him. Then he entered another room and called me to that room. When I sat in front of him, he said: O Mofazzal, it seems that the last night was long for you because of the promise I made to you. I said: Yes, my master.

He said: O Mofazzal. God was and nothing was before Him, and He remains and His existence has no end. He is worthy of praise and adoration for what He inspired us, and to Him belongs all thanks and gratitude for everything He has bestowed upon us. He has made us special for the highest knowledge and the highest meanings, and has chosen us above all His creation by His knowledge, and made us witnesses over them by His wisdom.

Then I asked permission to write down what he was saying. Then he said: O Mofazzal, those who doubt the existence of the Creator of the world are ignorant of the purposes and causes that were used in the creation of the world, and their understanding is insufficient to comprehend the wisdom that the Almighty has used in creating the various classes of creatures in the sea, desert, mountain, and plain.

Therefore, due to the deficiency of their knowledge, they have taken the path of denial, and due to the weakness of their insight,

they have followed the path of denial and stubbornness, to the point where they have denied that there is a Creator of all things, and they claim that the universe is not planned and that what happens is not based on plan and wisdom. – God Almighty is higher than what they describe, and may God curse them, where are they going from the clear truth? –

The Condition of Those Who Deny Creation

So, in their blindness and wandering, they are like blind people who enter a house that has been built with the utmost robustness and beauty; and the most luxurious carpets are spread out in it; and everything that a person needs, including food, drink, clothing, and other things, has been prepared in it; and everything has been placed in its proper place, according to good measure and proper planning.

And they walk in it from right to left and from left to right, and go in and out of its rooms while their eyes are covered and they can't see the the construction of the house and those things which are provided there; and it is possible that some of them bump into something that is placed in its proper place and is provided for a necessity, and these blinds do not know its meaning and why it is provided and placed there. Therefore, they begin to insult the house and its constructor. And this is the condition of these people when they deny the Creation of the universe and the robustness of its construction.

Indeed, because their minds can't understand the means and reasons behind things, they wander in this world confusedly and do not understand the robustness of its Creation and the beauty of its construction and the correctness of its preparation. As a result, it is possible that one of them encounter something that he does not know the reason behind it, so he hastily begins to denounce it and

describe it as erroneous and faulty. It is what has been done by followers of Mani who were disbelievers, and has been claimed by other disbelievers who were wrongdoers, and other people like them who went astray. They argued by impossible reasons.

So, it is necessary for those whom God has bestowed them with his knowledge and guided them to his religion and made them capable of thinking about his plan in Creation and made them aware about things which are created for them by best design and correct evaluation – and these are all signs of their Creator – to thank God, their master, for this blessing and hope that God will make them steady and increase their knowledge and blessings; because God – whose Name is great – has said: *"If you thank I will give you more, and if you disbelieve, indeed, my punishment is severe."*

The Order In The Universe

O, Mofazzal! The first lesson to learn and reason to argue about God – whose Holiness is great – is the preparation of the universe and the arrangement of its parts and its order. If you think about the universe, you will find it like a house in which all the things that are necessary for the people are provided. The sky is high like a ceiling, the earth is spread like a carpet, the stars are like lamps, the mines are like jewels that are stored, and all the things are prepared for some reason; and man is like the owner of this house and all the things in this house are granted to him. A variety of plants are prepared for him to use, and different kinds of animals are there to be used for his necessities. In this, indeed, there is a clear reason that the universe is created by design, wisdom, organization and fitness, and its Creator is one and unique and He is the one who arranged and organized it. His holiness is great, and He is respected, and there is no god but Him, and He is higher than

what ungrateful people say, and He is greater and higher than what atheists think.

The Creation Of The Man

O, Mofazzal! I begin with the Creation of the man. Let it be a lesson for you. The first stage in the man's Creation is the plan by which the fetus is settled in his mother's womb, while he is in three layers of darkness, namely, the darkness of the abdomen, the darkness of the womb, and the darkness of placenta. The fetus is there while he is not able to find his food, and he is not capable of protecting himself from any harm, and he is not capable of gaining something useful for himself. While he is in this condition, the blood of his mother flows to him and brings him food like a stream that feeds a plant with water. He feeds from this food until his creation is completed and his body becomes strong and his skin becomes capable of tolerating the air contact and his eyes become capable of tolerating the light.

Then, his mother feels pain, and that pain becomes more and more until she gives birth to him. When he is born, the blood of his mother which was feeding him in the womb, goes to her breasts and its flavor and its color changes and it is converted to a new kind of food which is more agreeable for the recently-born baby than the blood, and this is done exactly when the baby needs it. In addition, the baby knows how to move his lips to ask for his mother's milk, and when he does this, he finds his mother's breasts like two suspended bags that are prepared for him.

He continues to feed from his mother's milk as long as his body is wet and his internal organs are soft and his limbs are weak until he needs some food that is stronger to make his body strong and sturdy. In that time, his teeth appear, incisors and molars, to bite and grind the food. Then, his growth continues until he becomes an

adult. If he is a male, hair grows on his face, and this facial hair is the sign of an adult man and his glory which makes him different from the boys and the women, and if she is a female, her face remains hairless to keep its freshness, and this stimulates the men to do the thing which results in the survival of the species and its continuance.

O, Mofazzal! Let this be a lesson for you. If you think about these different conditions, do you believe that it is possible that all of them are done without a plan? Don't you think that if the blood didn't flow to the fetus, it would dry like plants that dry when they don't have access to water? And don't you think that if his mother didn't feel pain when his body was completely formed, he would remain in the womb like a live person whom is buried in a grave?

And don't you think that if the milk didn't match his body's needs after birth, he would die from hunger or would be forced to eat some food which wasn't appropriate and didn't benefit his body? And don't you think that if his teeth didn't grow when he needed them, he could not bite and grind the food, or he would be forced to drink milk as long as he lives and his body never became strong and therefore he couldn't do anything useful, and in addition, his mother would always be busy feeding him and she could not raise any other children?

And don't you think that if the hair didn't grow on his face at the proper time, he would remain similar to the boys and the women, and he would become deprive of manly glory and majesty on his face?

Mofazzal said: O, my master. I have seen men whose faces remain hairless even when they reach their adulthood.

Imam said: It is because of what their hands have prepared for them and God is not oppressor to His servants.

Why Are Babies Born With A Weak Mind?

If the baby was born with full comprehension, the world would seem to him very unpleasant after his birth and he would remain confused, because he would see what he didn't know and he would encounter things which he didn't see before, like the different images and forms present in the world from animals and birds and other things that he would see every moment and every day. And his condition would resemble the condition of an adult slave that is forced to move from a country to another one while he is sane; surely he becomes confused and couldn't learn their language and their culture as easy and as quickly as a little kid who is not fully sane and knows a little about the world. The kid would learn and adapt more quickly than the sane and adult slave.

Additionally, if he was born with full comprehension, he would get ashamed when he saw himself carried around by others or fed by his mother or folded in cloth or put in cradle, while these things are inevitable for any baby because the baby's body is still soft and wet when he is born.

Also, if he was born with full comprehension, he wouldn't have the sweetness and loveliness that is expected from a baby.

So, he is born ignorant about what is happening around him, and meets things with a weak mind and deficient knowledge. Then, he acquires knowledge little by little and bit by bit until he becomes acquainted with things, and his confusion gradually disappears and he gains confidence and capability to manage his own affairs by using his own wisdom, and then he chooses for himself to be either careful and obedient or to be inattentive, careless and sinful.

Moreover, if children were born with full comprehension and independent, the sweetness of their upbringing would be lost for their parents, and parents couldn't teach their children what is

necessary for them and couldn't help them; so there would be no obligation for children to help their parents when they really need it, and neither the children would become acquainted with their parents, nor the parents would become acquainted with their children, because the children wouldn't need their parents' upbringing, and would leave them as soon as they were born, and as a result, the son wouldn't know his parents and couldn't avoid marrying his mother and his sisters and other relatives with whom the marriage is forbidden, because he wouldn't know them.

Besides, if he was born with full comprehension, the most hideous, odious and shameful of all that would happen, would be that he might see something from his mother which is not permitted and is not good at all to be seen. Don't you see how all the things in Creation are planned with utmost correctness and designed without any minor or major errors?

The Benefits Of The Babies' Crying

O, Mofazzal! Know about the benefits of the babies' crying. Know that there is some moisture in the brains of the babies which if it remains there, it will result in serious diseases and great pains like blindness and other things. So, crying makes this moisture flow from their heads, and it results in the health in their bodies and their eyes. Although the baby benefits from crying, his parents don't know about it and they try to make him happy and prevent him from crying, and they don't know that the crying is more beneficial for him and has a better outcome.

Like this example, it is possible that there are lots of other things that have uses and benefits which those who think the world is made carelessly don't know, and if they knew it, they wouldn't judge them as useless just because they don't understand their uses and the reasons behind them.

And all the things that ignorant people don't know, the wise people know, and there are a lot of things that the created people don't understand completely but the knowledge of the Creator – His holiness is great – has a full understanding and comprehension of it.

Why Does Water Flow From The Mouths Of Babies?

And about the water that flows from the mouths of babies, if it remains in their bodies, it will result in great difficulties like what you can see in a person who the moisture has increased in his body and either he will become insane or he will be afflicted by other diseases such as hemiplegia and etc. So God make this moisture flow from their mouths when they are babies, and this will result in their health when they become adults. God granted to them what they don't know, and bestowed to them what they don't understand, and if they knew his bounties, this knowledge would make them busy thanking Him and would prevent them from sinning. Glory belongs to Him who his bounties are granted to those who deserve them and to those who don't, and He is so higher than what the disbelievers say.

The Reproduction Organs

O, Mofazzal, think about the reproduction organs in the man and in the woman. In the man, the reproduction organ can be erected and elongated; because he should be able to deliver his semen to the womb and it is necessary for him to deliver his water to the womb, and in the woman, the reproduction organ is created like a deep container which can hold both the water of the man and the woman, and also can hold the baby, and is able to expand for holding the baby and to keep him until he is strong enough to be born. Isn't this the result of the design and the planning of the Wise

and the Gracious? – He is holier and higher than what polytheists think. –

The Body Parts

O, Mofazzal! Think about all the parts of the body and their design. Two hands for working, two legs for walking, two eyes for seeing, a mouth for eating, a stomach for digestion, a liver for purification, openings for getting rid of the wastes, containers for holding the wastes, and genitals for reproduction. And like these examples, if you apply your thought and think carefully and deeply, you will realize that all other parts are planned and designed correctly and wisely as well.

The Role Of "Nature"

Mofazzal said: O, my master. Some people think that these are done by "Nature". Imam said: Ask them about "Nature", whether it has wisdom and power to do such things or not? If they reply that it has wisdom and power, this belief will not prevent them to believe in Creator because "Nature" is His Creation, and if they think that "Nature" does these things without wisdom and intention, while we have seen that these things are done correctly and wisely, then the conclusion will be that these things are done by a wise Creator, and this thing that they call "Nature" is His Tradition in Creation; He intended to use means to do things.

The Delivery Of Food To The Body

O, Mofazzal! Think about delivering food to the body and its planning. Indeed, the food enters stomach, and stomach digests it and send the purified food to the liver by delicate and purifying blood vessels, so that they prevent inappropriate materials to reach the liver, because the liver is delicate and can't tolerate roughness. Then the liver accepts the food, and transforms it to blood by a

gentle planning, and this blood spreads throughout the body by channels prepared for this job; these channels are like the channels that are prepared in the ground to distribute water all over it. And all the impurities and harmful materials flow to the containers which are prepared to hold the wastes. The things which are of yellow bile type flow to the gall bladder, the things which are of black bile flow to the spleen, and other things which are of moisture type flow to the bladder.

The Waste Containers In The Body

So think about the design of the body and the conditions of the body parts, like the positions and arrangement of the waste containers in the body which are prepared to prevent spreading the waste throughout the body and to prevent its corruption and to prevent diseases. Glory belongs to Him who has the best planning and the most coherent design and thanks should be expressed to Him as He deserves them.

The Growth And The Development Of The Body

Mofazzal said: Describe for me the growth of the bodies and their development step by step, until they reach their full and complete form.

Imam (PBUH) said: The first stage is the forming and designing of the fetus in the womb, where no eye can see and no hand can reach, until he leaves the womb at the time when he is correctly and completely formed and all the things which his survival and health depend upon are provided for him, like internal organs and external limbs and other things which are necessary to form a body such as bones, meat, fat, brain, nerves, blood vessels and cartilages. And after he leaves the womb, you see that he grows uniformly and his form and shape and proportions don't change, and they don't

increase or decrease, until he reaches his adulthood, if he is destined to reach that age, or else he may die before reaching his adulthood. Don't these things result from a precise planning and wisdom?

Standing Upright

O, Mofazzal! Think about the thing with which humans are favored in their Creation, because they are honored and preferred in comparison to beasts. Indeed, humans can stand upright and can sit properly, so that they can manipulate things by their hands and limbs and can work by them. If their posture was like quadrupeds they couldn't do any of these things.

The Senses

O, Mofazzal! Think about the senses with which humans are favored and honored in comparison to others. Consider how the eyes have been placed in head like the lamps on the Minarets[1], so that they can see things easily, and the eyes were not placed in the lower parts of the body like hands and feet. If they were, they would suffer from harms and would be afflicted by working and movement and finally they would be hurt; and they were not placed in the middle parts of the body like back neither, and if they were, it would be difficult to turn and see things. Therefore, because there was no place in the body better than head for eyes and other senses, they are placed there.

And He created five senses and they sense five different things, so that nothing is left out. So He created sight to perceive colors. If there were colors but there was no sight to perceive them, there would be no benefit in the existence of the colors.

1 Religious towers

And He created hearing to perceive sounds. If there were sounds but there was no hearing to perceive them, there would be no benefit in the existence of the sounds. And the conditions of the other senses are also similar to these two examples.

And the reverse conditions are also true. If there was sight but there was no color, the sight would be meaningless. And If there was hearing but there was no sound, the hearing would be pointless. Therefore, look how He has decided to create something which matches something else, and for each sense He has created something which is there to be perceived by it, and for each perceivable thing He has created a proper sense.

And besides, He has created intermediary things between each sense and its corresponding perceivable without which the senses could not be complete. Examples are the light and the air. If there was no light that make colors perceivable to the eyes, the eyes couldn't see the colors, and if there was no air to bring sounds to the ears, the ears couldn't hear the sounds.

And now can it remain obscure for the one who thinks correctly and gives the matter careful thought that such things that I explained, like harmony between the senses and the perceivable things and the connection between each sense and its corresponding perceivable and the existence of other intermediaries that complete these connections, couldn't be, except by an intention and a planning from the Gracious and the Wise?

O, Mofazzal! Think about a blind person and the difficulties he has in his everyday activities. He doesn't know where he puts his feet, and he doesn't know what is in front of him, he can't distinguish between the colors and between the beautiful views and ugly ones, and he can't see the pits so he can't avoid them, and if an enemy attacks him by a sword he will not be able to defend

himself, and he can't do many things like writing and carpentry and goldsmithing, and indeed if he didn't have a keen mind, he would be like a stone thrown away.

And the condition of a deaf person is similar. He has a lot of difficulties, too. He doesn't have the spirit of the conversation and the talk, and he can't enjoy the sounds and the delightful melodious tunes, and the people have difficulty having conversation with him and they become tired of talking with him, and he can hear nothing about the people and what they say to such a point that he resembles an absent person while he is present, and he resembles a dead while he is alive.

And an insane person resembles the beasts and even worse, because there are a lot of things which beasts know but he doesn't.

Don't you see that all the necessary things are provided in the body such as the limbs and the organs and the intellect and other things, and nothing necessary is left out? And if these necessary things weren't provided for humans, they would have a lot of difficulties. And it is as such, because all these things are resulted from the Creation with the knowledge and the design.

About Persons Created With Deficiencies

Mofazzal said: O, my master. Then why are there some people who don't have one of these limbs or organs and they suffer from some of the difficulties that you explained?

Imam said: These are for punishment and giving advice to whom are afflicted and the others. These are similar to the punishments that kings impose upon some of their subjects to deter them and to give them advice, and not only the people don't denounce such punishments imposed by kings, but also they praise their decisions and approve their plans.

In addition, those who are afflicted by such miseries will be given such a reward after death – if they thank God and repent – that their miseries will seem to them negligible compared to the reward given to them, to the extent that if they return back to this world again and they can choose between the health and the affliction, they themselves will choose to be afflicted in order to increase their reward.

The Body Parts: Single And Double

O, Mofazzal! Think about the parts of the body, those which are created single and those which are created double, and think about the wisdom and the design and the correctness in the their planning. For example, head is among the parts which are created single, because there is no benefit in having more than one head. Don't you see that if another head was added to the existing one, it would be a burden without any benefit. Because all the necessary senses are already provided in a single head. Additionally, if a person had two heads, there would be several possibilities; First, if he spoke by one, the other would be idle, pointless and useless. Second, if he said by both the same thing, one of them would be excess and unnecessary. Third, if he said by one something and by the other something else, the listener would get confused and wouldn't know to which one he should listen.

And the hands are among the body parts which are created double; and it was not good for humans to have a single hand, because it would cause difficulties for them whenever they would want to do something. Don't you see that if one of the hands of a carpenter or a builder becomes paralyzed he won't be able to do his job well, and even if he does it with much difficulty, the resulted product will not be as robust as when he can use both of his hands.

The Voice And The Speech

O, Mofazzal! Think about the voice and the speaking and the tools which are provided in humans in order for them to be able to speak.

The throat is like a pipe from which the sound can come out, and the tongue and the lips and the teeth are provided to articulate the phonemes and the melodies. Don't you see that if the teeth of a person are lost, he will not be able to pronounce /s/ correctly? And don't you see if the lips of a person are dropped down, he will not be able to pronounce /f/ correctly? And don't you see if the tongue of a person is defective, he will not be able to pronounce /r/ well?

And indeed, the most similar thing to the human's speech apparatus is the bagpipe. The throat resembles its pipe, the lungs resembles the skin into which air is blown, and the muscles that contract the lungs to produce sound resemble the fingers which contract the bag to make air to flow in the bagpipe, and the lips and the teeth are tools which convert the sound into phonemes and the melodies like the fingers which change the sound at the mouth of a bagpipe. Although here we likened the speech apparatus to a bagpipe, in fact, it is the bagpipe that should be likened to the speech apparatus.

The Other Benefits Of The Speech Apparatus

I have informed you about the benefits of the body parts which involve in producing the voice and the melodies. But be aware that they have other benefits as well.

The throat is beneficial to bring the air to the heart by the successive and permanent breath, and if it stops bringing the air to the heart, even briefly, the man will die.

And by tongue we taste the flavors and distinguish them and recognize each of them, sweet from bitter, sour from salty, pleasant

from unpleasant, and in addition, tongue helps us to swallow the foods and the drinks.

And by the teeth we chew the food until it becomes soft enough for us to swallow it easily; and besides, they are like the support for the lips and from inside the mouth they prevent the lips from dropping down. And let it be a lesson for you when you see a person who has lost his teeth and therefore, his lips are droopy and unsettled; and he sips at the drink so that the drink can enter the throat slowly and gradually and to prevent it from entering suddenly and choking the drinker or hurting the throat.

Additionally, lips are like doors in front of the mouth; the man opens it whenever he wants and closes it whenever he desires.

And as I explained, each of the body parts has several uses like some tools which can be used for different needs such as ax that can be used in carpentry and digging the ground and other activities.

The Brain

If the brain was uncovered for you, you could see that it is wrapped in several covers, one upon the other, to protect it from accidents and to stick to it in order to prevent it from shaking; and you would see the skull upon it like a helmet to prevent it from injuries and accidents that may happen to the head. And then the skull is covered by the hair which is like fur and protects the head from excessive heat and cold. Then who is the one that protected the brain so well? Indeed, He is the one who created it and made it the fountain of the perception, and an organ which deserves cover and protection, because it has a high value, rank, status and importance in the body.

The Eyelids

Consider, O Mofazzal, how He placed the eyelid over the eye as a curtain to be hung over it, and He placed things like ropes and rings beside it so that they could hang the curtain whenever they wanted and raise it whenever they wanted. And He placed the eye in the middle of a cave and protected it with that curtain and the eyelashes that grew on it.

The Heart

O, Mofazzal! Who has hidden the heart in the chest and has covered it by membranes and protected it by ribs and upon it has put meat and nerves to prevent it from injury?

The Throat

Who has placed in the throat two openings, one of them for the sound called windpipe which is connected to the lungs and the other the opening for the food, called the gullet, which is connected to the stomach and brings the food to it?

Who has placed in the throat a cover that prevents the food to enter the lungs and kill the man?

The Lung

Who has created the lung as a fan for the heart? This fan continually works, and if not, the heart would be warmed excessively and that would result in the death of the man.

The Openings Of The Body

Who has created clamps for the openings of the urine and the feces which prevent them from continuous flowing? And if they flowed continuously the man's life would become intolerable.

How many of these bounties could be counted? and indeed, those bounties which the people don't count and don't know are much more.

The Stomach

Who has created the stomach which is so furious and strong and designed it to digest the heavy and thick food?

The Liver

Who has created the liver so soft and mild to accept the digested and softened food and digest it further by a kind of digestion which is milder and gentler?

These things are done by God the Almighty. Do you see any sign of carelessness in these things? Not at all. Instead, this is the design of the Designer, the Wise, the Almighty, the One who knew all the things before they were created; there is nothing which is beyond His power; He is the Gracious, the Wise.

The Spinal Cord

Why is the spinal cord protected by pipes made of bone? Isn't it to protect it from injuries?

The Blood Vessels

Why does the flowing blood is contained in the blood vessels like the water in the containers? Isn't it to hold it and prevent it to flow to places where it should not flow?

The Fingernails

Why are the fingernails created around the tips of the fingers? Isn't it to protect them and help them when they do something?

The Ear

Why does the internal part of the ear is created crooked? Isn't it to guide the sound to reach the inner part and break the harshness of the air to prevent it from damaging the hearing?

The Flesh Around The Thigh

Why is there some flesh around the thigh and the hips and the pelvis? Isn't it there to protect the man from the harshness of the ground and to shield him so that he doesn't feel pain when he sits down? Just like a person whose body has gotten thin and its flesh is decreased and there is no barrier between him and the ground to protect him.

The Reproductive Men

Who has made man male and female except He who created him for reproduction, and who has created him to beget offspring, but He who has endowed him with hope and desire, and who has given him the means of action except He who has created him to work, and who has created him to work except He who has made him needy, and who has made him needy except He who has provided for him the means of satisfying his needs, and who has made him special in understanding except He who has made him responsible and has determined for him the reward of good and bad deeds, and who has given him the means of solving problems except He who has given him strength, and who has given him strength except He who has completed the proof for him, and who has taken responsibility for many matters that no human being can solve, except He, whom we are not able to thank for all His blessings.

Think and consider carefully what I explained to you. Do you find any signs of carelessness in this system and organization? – God has more glory than what they describe –

More About The Heart

O, Mofazzal! Now I want to explain the heart to you. Know that there are some holes in the heart which are opposite to some holes in the lungs which fan the heart; if they were different, then the air wouldn't reach the heart and the man would die.

Does anyone who is wise and rational believe that such things could be done with carelessness? The wise men should consider the following analogy that prevents them from believing in carelessness.

The Man And The Woman Are Like Two Leafs Of A Door

If a person sees a door leaf which has a latch on it, would he think that this latch is pointless? On the contrary, he will conclude that there should be another door leaf with a hook which this latch could be dropped into to fasten it, and there is a purpose in joining both of them together.

And by considering this analogy, you realize that the male is like the door leaf with a latch and the female is the other door leaf. And they meet with each other for the purpose of the reproduction and the survival of the species. So, may destruction, despair, and punishment be upon those who claim philosophy and wisdom. How is it possible that they can't see such a marvelous and wonderful Creation and how can it be that they deny the design and the intention in the Creation?

The Genital Of The Man

If the genital of the male person was always hung, how could it reach the end of the womb and how could he empty his semen into the womb? and if it was always erected, how could he rest in the bed or how could he walk among the people while something like a pole erected in front of him? And if it was so, in addition to the

ugliness of the view, it would arouse the people, both men and women, all the time. So God – whose Name is great – has designed it in such a way that it is hidden most of the time but the male can erect it whenever it should be erected, because it is designed to be useful in the reproduction and the survival of the species.

The Most Hidden Place Of The Body

O, Mofazzal! Let it be a lesson for you the great bounty which is bestowed to man in his eating and drinking and the easiness of getting rid of the waste. Don't you see that a good architect who plans a house tries to put the bathroom in the most hidden place of it, and indeed, that is a sign of good design?

Similarly, God – glory belongs to Him – has put the opening of the waste in humans in the most hidden place of the body and it isn't put where it could be visible from the back or the front; on the contrary, it is put in the most hidden place of the body while it's covered by the flesh which hides it; and when the man sits to get rid of the waste the opening is revealed in order for him to be able to get rid of the waste. So Glorious is He whose bounties are frequent and they can't be counted.

The Teeth

O, Mofazzal! Think about the teeth which are created for men; some are sharp to cut and bite the food, and some are wide to chew and crush it; both are there because the man needs both.

The Hair And The Fingernails

Think carefully about the hair and the fingernails and let them be a lesson for you. See how they grow and elongate until it is necessary for them to be cut. So God has created them in such a way that cutting them is painless to prevent man to feel pain when he cuts them; and if cutting them had pain, then man would have

only either of these two unpleasant choices; either to let them grow until they become heavy, or to cut them and suffer from the pain.

Mofazzal said: I asked why aren't they created in such a way that they wouldn't grow and consequently wouldn't need to be cut?

Imam (PBUH) replied: God – whose Name is blessed – has intended in this, several benefits for his servants while they don't know them, so they don't thank him. Know that by the growth of the hair and the fingernails some pains leave the body and this is why the man is ordered to cut his excess hair and his fingernails every week, so that the growth speed of the hair and fingernails increases and as a result, the pains leave the body; and if they grow and the man doesn't cut them, the pains will remain in the body and result in diseases.

However, God has prevented the hair to grow in places where it would result in hurt or harm or difficulty for the man. If hair grew in the eyes, it would result in blindness; and if it grew in the mouth the eating and the drinking would become unpleasant for him; and if it grew on the palms, the feeling by touch would get difficult and he couldn't do some activities easily; and if it grew in the vagina of the woman or on the genital of the man the pleasure of the intercourse would be lost for both of them. So see how the hair is prevented to grow in these places because there would be no benefit in it.

And in addition, it is not a thing that only happens in man, but it happens in the beasts and the predatory animals and other creatures which reproduce as well. You can see, despite their whole bodies are covered by hair, these places don't have hair because of the reasons I mentioned.

So think about the Creation in which no error or harm can be found, and in which there are only correctness and benefit. Indeed,

when the followers of Mani and other people like them tried to find errors in the Creation and His intention, they found fault with pubic and underarm hair but they didn't know that these hairs grow because of the wetness of those places. The hair grows in those places like the herbs which grow in the swamps. Don't you see that those places are the most hidden and the most proper places in which this hair can grow?

In this, additionally, there is a benefit for man. The occupation of man by removing this hair prevents him from doing more evil and prevents him to do bad things which if he had more free time he would do or at least he would waste his time doing nothing useful.

The Saliva

Think about the saliva and its benefits. Indeed, God made it to flow continuously to the mouth to keep the mouth and the throat wet and to prevent them to become dry. If these places were dry, it would result in the decay of the teeth; and if the mouth and the throat were not wet, the swallowing of the food would become difficult; and this moisture is like a vehicle for the food; and this moisture reaches to the place where there is the bile and in this there is a great benefit for man; because if the bile dries out and hardens, man will die.

An Answer To A Strange Idea

Indeed, some of the ignorant people among the motakallems and some of the weak minds among the philosophers, due to their little comprehension and knowledge, have said if the abdomen of man was like a long dress which doctors could open when they desired, certainly they could examine the things which are inside the body and they could put their hands in it and cure what they wanted to cure; and they claimed if the condition was like this, it would be

better than what already is, covered and hidden from the eyes and the hands; they said, now the inside of the body can't be understood except by indirect complicated signs such as examining the appearance of the urine and the smell of the sweat and etc; and by using this indirect method doctors make mistakes and have doubts and eventually this uncertainty leads to the death of the patient.

These ignorant people should know that if the body was like what they wish, and diseases could be treated easily as they say, firstly, the people wouldn't fear the diseases and the death anymore and they would feel they are immortal and they would become deceived by their health and this would lead them to arrogance and wickedness; secondly, the moisture of the body would leak anywhere they would sit and sleep and would make their bed and their clothes dirty and that would ruin their pleasures in life; thirdly, the stomach and the liver and the heart work well because of their innate heat, and for this reason, their heat is preserved inside the body; if there was an opening in the abdomen in such a way that the eyes can see inside and the hands can reach, then the coldness of the air would reach the inside and would mix with the innate heat and that would corrupt what inner organs wanted to do and eventually that would result in the death of the man. So don't you see that all the things around which the fantasies wander, except what already has created by God, are nothing but mistaken and false thoughts?

Different Stimuli, For Different Actions

O, Mofazzal! Think about the man's actions such as eating, sleeping and having intercourse, and how they are designed. God has created for each of them a stimulus in man's soul by which he desires them. So hunger is the stimulus of the eating by which man

desires food that is necessary for his body's survival and strength; And the tiredness resulted from sleeplessness by which man desires sleep that is necessary for his body's rest and recovery; And lust by which man desires intercourse that is necessary for the survival of the species.

And if the man had merely a knowledge of the benefits of food for his body and there was no innate desire for food which force him to eat, it would be probable that the man, because of his laziness and idleness, would ignore eating and that would result in weakening of his body and finally his death. That situation would be like the situation of a person who needs a medicine to cure himself but he feels lazy and delays the cure until this laziness brings him a serious illness and death.

And if the thinking about benefits of sleep for the body and its recovery was the only reason for the man to sleep, it would be probable that he would delay the sleep until he would wear his body.

And if the wish to have a child was the only reason for the man to have a sexual intercourse, it would be probable that he would ignore it until the human population would decrease or even human species would become extinct; because there are people who don't wish to have a child and it is not important for them.

So see how some sort of innate desire has been provided for the man for each of these activities, which are necessary for him and his well-being, to encourage him to do them.

The Four Forces In The Body

And know that there are four forces in the man: First, the force of appetite, which accepts food and send it to the stomach; second, holding force, which holds the food until nature does whatever it should do; third, digestive force, which digests the food and purifies

it and distributes it throughout the body; fourth, excreting force, which excretes the waste material from the body after the digestive force has taken whatever it needs from the food.

Think about the design of these four forces in the body and their actions and how they are planned purposefully because they are necessary; and think about the design and the wisdom which has been used in them; if there was no appetite how would it possible to encourage the man to gather food which is necessary for his body? and if there was no holding force, how would it possible to hold the food inside the body until it is digested by stomach? and if there was no digestion, how would it possible to digest the food until it is purified and is ready to feed the body and substitute what was eliminated from the body? and if there was no excretion, how would it possible to excrete the waste material gradually after digestion?

Don't you see how God – glory belongs to Him – by his gentle Creation and great Assessment, has delegated these forces in the body and established in them what is necessary for the man?

An Analogy For The Body

Let me give you an analogy. Indeed, the body is like the palace of a king, and the king has servants in this palace and there are supervisors who oversee the palace activities. Some supervise the needs of the servants and provide the necessities for them; some keep what is provided and store them until they are needed; some prepare these provisions and oversee their distribution; and others clean the palace and dispose of the wastes.

In this analogy, the king is God, who is the Creator and the Wise and the King of the worlds; the house is the body; the servants are the body organs; and the supervisors are those four forces which were mentioned.

And you may think what we have said about these forces and their actions is not exactly how physicians describe them in their books, and what we have said is not quite similar to what they say. Physicians talk about these forces in such a way that can be used in their job and healing the bodies, and we talk about them in such a way that is useful to benefit the religion and to heal the souls from temptations and doubts. Therefore, we explained them in a soul-healing way and gave you the examples of design and wisdom in them.

The Memory And The Forgetfulness

O, Mofazzal! Think about powers which are present in human soul and their benefits. I mean powers such as thought, imagination, intellect, memory and etc. And if man had all of them together but memory, how would be his condition? and how many miseries would afflict him in his activities and life and commerce? Because he couldn't remember his income and how much money he has lent and how much he has borrowed; and he couldn't remember what he has seen, heard, told, and being told to him; and he couldn't remember who has done him good, and who has done him bad, and what is useful and what is harmful to him; and he could remember no path, even though he might have walked along it many times; and he could remember no knowledge, even though he might have studied it all his life; and he couldn't believe in any religion; and experience couldn't benefit him, and he could learn from nothing; and if he was like so, he couldn't be really called a man at all. So see how even lack of just one of these powers would result in such a calamity; and if all of them were missing, then what would be the condition of man?

And even greater than the gift of memory is the gift of forgetfulness; if there was no forgetfulness, nobody could forget his

misfortunes and miseries, and thus his sorrow would last forever; he couldn't forget any animosity or hatred; and he couldn't enjoy his worldly life because he could remember all the misfortunes; and he couldn't hope that someday a hostile king or a jealous person might forget him. Don't you see how both memory and forgetfulness are given to man?

While they are different and contradictory, they both are beneficial; and perhaps those who divided the things between two contradictory gods, say these things are dissimilar and contradictory and each kind must belong to one separate god. On the contrary, we believe that these contradictory things are gathered together because both are useful and beneficial.

The Bashfulness

O, Moffazal! See how man is made special among all other animals, by having something very great and outstanding, and by this I mean modesty and bashfulness. If there was no bashfulness, nobody would host and respect his guest; and nobody would keep his promise; and nobody would help others; and nobody would do good and kind deeds and avoid bad and shameful ones; to the extent that a lot of necessary duties are merely done because of bashfulness and avoiding shame. Because there are people who if they didn't want to avoid shame, they wouldn't do their parents justice and respect them; and they wouldn't respect their relatives; and they couldn't be trusted; and they wouldn't avoid shameful deeds; Don't you see how man is given all the things which are beneficial to him and do him good?

The Man's Ability To Talk

O, Mofazzal! Think about the ability to talk which God − great are His Names − has bestowed upon man, by which he tells what he has

in his mind and heart, and tells others the results of his thoughts, and realize what others have in their minds; and if he didn't had this ability to talk, he would be similar to beasts; and he wouldn't be able to talk about himself, and he wouldn't be able to understand others; and ability to write is like this as well; It was writing that made it possible for ancients to preserve their news for posterity, and by writing the news of current generation can be preserved for the future ones; and by writing, books of sciences, ethics and other books become eternal; and by writing man can record what has taken place between him and others like financial transactions and calculations; If there was no writing, the news of each generation would be lost to the future generations; and travelers couldn't write letters and let their families know their condition; and sciences would be forgotten; and ethics and morals would be lost; and difficulties and problems of people in daily life and trade would be enormous; and they would have problems in what they needed to know about their religion and what was necessary to be narrated to them.

And maybe you think that talking and writing are not among the things which are bestowed upon man in his Creation, but they were discovered by man's intelligence and cleverness; and language is something that becomes common among people gradually and as a result it is different among various nations and each nation have their own language; and writing and script are different as well, such as Arabic script, Syriac script, Hebrew script and other scripts which are diverse among nations; scripts became common just as different languages became common;

We say to those who claim this, if man can use his intelligence to do his activities and discover things, this intelligence itself is the gift and present of God to him when He created man; if man was

not prepared for speech and didn't have a mind capable of guiding him in his activities, he would never be able to talk, and if had no hand or fingers for writing, he would never be able to write. To understand it better, compare man to beasts; beasts can't talk or write; therefore, the essence of speech and writing is the nature which God – glory and greatness belong to Him – has given to man as a gift and has chosen man among His Creation. So everyone who thanks God would be rewarded and everyone who refuses to thank Him, indeed, God doesn't need anything.

The Allowed And Forbidden Knowledge

O, Mofazzal! Think about the knowledge which is given to man and the one which is forbidden. He has been given all the knowledge in which there is a benefit both to his faith and his worldly activities. Among the knowledge that benefits his faith is the knowledge about God – glory and majesty belongs to Him – by evident reasons and signs in Creation; and those things whose knowledge is compulsory such as the fair treatment of all the people, and being kind to the parents, and not betraying something which is left in the trust of you, and feeling compassion for the poor and the needy, and other similar things whose knowledge exists in the soul and the nature of all people, despite their similarities or differences, and they approve it and admit its necessity.

And likewise the knowledge of things which are beneficial for man's worldly activities has given to him as well; such as agriculture, and planting trees, and cultivating lands, and keeping sheep and cattle, and obtaining water from the ground, and knowing medicines by which he treats different kinds of diseases, and knowing the mines from which minerals and gems are obtained, and sailing the ships and diving into the seas, and different kinds of tricks to hunt beasts and birds and fish, and

making things, and taking part in different business and trades, and other similar things which explaining them would take a long time, and there are a lot of them; these are the things which benefits him in this worldly dwelling.

So man has been given the knowledge which is beneficial both to his faith and his worldly life, and he has been prevented from obtaining the knowledge of other things which are not relevant to him and he doesn't have enough capability to know; such as the knowledge of unseen, and what happens in the future, and some of things happened in the past as well, like the knowledge of things above the heaven, and things beneath the earth, and things in the depths of seas, and the size of the universe, and what are in the minds of people, and what are in the wombs, and other similar things whose knowledge is hidden from people; there are some people who claim that they know such things but when their mistakes in what they judge and in what they predict about the things they claim to know are revealed, their false claim would be denied.

So see how the knowledge of all the things which man needs for his faith and his worldly life is given to him, but the knowledge of other things has been hidden from him, to know his limits and defects; and both of them are beneficial to him.

Why Does Not Man Know How Long He Lives?

O, Mofazzal! now think about the fact that man doesn't know how long he lives. Indeed, if he knew that and his life was short, he would not enjoy the life, because he would expect his death; He would be like someone who has lost his fortune or is going to lose it, thus he always feels the poverty and is fearful of losing his money and becoming poor; Indeed, the fear of death is greater than the fear of losing money; because the one who lost his money hopes

he would earn money again in the future and feels relief by this hope; but who is sure about his death, a deep sense of despair would overwhelm him.

On the other had, if he has a long life and he knows that, he would be confident of being alive, and would indulge in pleasures and sins, and he would think that he satisfies his desires and at last would repent at the end of his life. But this is a method with which God isn't content and doesn't accept from his servants. Don't you see that if you have a servant who makes you angry for a year and then pleases you for a day or a month, you would not accept it from him and wouldn't consider him among those who you favor; you only expect him to obey you and serve you in all the things, all the time.

And if you say that it is possible that a man insists on committing sins for a while, then he repents and his repentance is accepted; then I would reply that this a condition in which a man could be trapped because of the dominance of the sinful desires over him, and he doesn't fix it in his soul and doesn't make disobedience the foundation of his behavior; so for this reason, God excuses him and forgives him. But the one who bases his behavior on committing sins, thinking he would repent at the end of his life, indeed, he is the one who tries to deceive, and can't deceive by satisfying his desires, and keeping his soul hopeful that he would repent in the future; and it is not certain that he would repent and keep his promise; because abandoning luxury and pleasure and suffering from repentance, especially when he would be old and his body would be weak, is difficult; and in addition, he couldn't be sure, when he postpones his repentance, that death would not seize him and force him to leave the world without repentance. Then he would be like a person who has borrowed some money from

somebody else to return it in a specified time, and although he can return the money ahead of time, he postpones it until the time comes, but he has spent all the money and can't pay it back anymore, so the debt remains.

So the best thing for man is not knowing how long he lives; as a result, he would expect his death all his life and consequently he would avoid committing sins and would prefer righteous deeds.

Maybe you would say that even now that man doesn't know how long he lives and he expects his death at any moment, yet he does offensive deeds and commits forbidden ones; then we would reply that the reason behind the design is what is planned as I explained; if a man, despite of this, yet doesn't avoid the sins, it would be the result of his ruthlessness, not from a fault in the design; it is like when a doctor explains to the patient what benefits him; but if the patient doesn't agree with the doctor and doesn't obey his orders, and doesn't avoid what the doctor has forbidden for him, he would not benefit from doctor's orders; and it would not be the fault of the doctor, but the the fault of the patient since he doesn't accept doctor's orders. If a man who expects his death at any moment, doesn't avoid sins, then he would commit greater and more horrible sins if he is sure that he would survive for a long time; So expecting death is better for man in all situations than being sure about survival; and in addition, if there is a group of people who amuse themselves so that they don't expect death and don't learn a lesson, on the other hand, there is an other group of people who learn a lesson from it and avoid committing sins and prefer righteous deeds and expend their money and precious things on the poor and the needy; so it would be unfair to deprive this group of people of benefiting from this habit, because of others who waste their opportunity and don't benefit.

The Dreams

O, Mofazzal! Think about the dreams, how they are designed and how true and false dreams are mixed together. If all the dreams were true, then all the people would be prophets; and if all the dreams were false, then there would not be any benefit in them and they all would be useless without any meaning; so they are designed in such a way that sometimes they are true, and people benefit from it, either by being guided by them to gain benefit or by being prevented by them to avoid damage; and a lot of dreams are false so that people wouldn't entirely trust them.

The House With Chests Full Of The Precious Things

Think about the things which you see them provided in the world such as earth which is used for building, iron for making iron things, wood for making ships and etc, stone for making querns and mills and etc, copper for copper ware, gold and silver for trade, gems for storage, seeds for eating, fruits for eating by pleasure, meat for eating, perfume for pleasure, herbal medicines for cure, riding-animals for carrying loads and riding, firewood for burning in fires, ash for some kind of mortar, sand for covering floors; and how many things like these ones could a person name?

You think if a man goes in a house and sees chests full of the things which people do need, and sees them all provided for known uses, would he think that all these things are provided without any purpose and intention?

So how does someone allow himself to argue in such a way about the world and all the things provided in it?

The Duties Which Are Left For Man To Fulfill

O, Mofazzal! Think about the things which are created for man and the design behind them. Indeed, grains are created for him to

be his food, but it is man's duty to grind them, and knead the dough, and bake the bread; pile is created for him to be his clothes, but it is man's duty to card it, to spin it, and to weave it; and tree is created for him, but it is man's duty to plant it, to water it, and to cultivate it; and herbal medicines are created for him, but it is man's duty to gather it, to mix it, and to make it; and you will find other things similar to these examples as well; so see how the creation is done by God because man can't figure out how to do it, but other things that man is capable of doing is left for him to do; and these duties are beneficial to man, because if all the things was done for him to the extent that he didn't have anything to do, indeed, this situation would lead him to be conceited and arrogant, and additionally, he would get involved in some activities which would result in his decay; and besides, if all the things which are necessary were done for people, they would not enjoy their lives, and they would not find pleasure in being alive; don't you see that if a person stays with a group of people as a guest, and they provide him all the things he needs, like food and drink and service, he would get discontented with his idleness, and he would be forced by himself to find something to do? and then how would be the condition of man if everything was provided for him and he needed nothing all his life?

So, indeed, it is the sign of the correct design manifested itself in all these things which are created for man, and in leaving some duties for man to do; by this design, man is not idle anymore, therefore he wouldn't feel discontented; and this design prevents him to get involved in searching for things which he couldn't obtain, and if he could, it would be of no benefit to him.

The Bread And The Water

O, Mofazzal! Know that the head of man's living and life are bread and water; now see how they are designed; indeed, man's need for water is stronger than his need for bread; because his patience with hunger is more than his patience with thirst; and water is the thing he needs for drinking, washing hands, washing the body, washing the clothes, watering his animals, and watering his crops; so water is made plentiful and it is not necessary to buy it; so that this abundance prevents man to run into difficulties to obtain it; in contrast, bread can only be obtained by planning and being active, so that this activity would make man busy and would prevent him from idleness which would result in vanity and uselessness.

Don't you see that a child which is not capable of knowing the benefits of learning, would be sent by his parents to a teacher so that being busy would prevent him from being playful or idle and doing things which could hurt himself or his family severely. Similarly, if a man is idle, he might do things, because of his evilness, idleness and arrogance, which would hurt himself or his relatives. Let it be a lesson for you, the condition of a man who has lived a life of fortune and wealth and idleness, and how this kind of life leads him toward evilness and corruption.

Why Is No Man Similar To Another One Physically?

Take a lesson from why no one is similar to another, just as wild animals, birds, and others are similar to each other. As you see, they are all so similar to each other that it is impossible to distinguish between any one of them and another. And you see the children of Adam that their forms and their creations are different, so that no two of them have the same characteristics.

And the reason and wisdom of this is that people need to know each other by their attributes, for the transactions that take place between them; and there are no animals and birds that need to know each other. Don't you see that the similarity of birds and beasts to each other does not cause any harm to their actions, but if two men are similar to each other, it will become very difficult for people to deal with them, to the extent that what should be given to one of them, they give to the other, and if one should be held accountable for a sin, they hold the other accountable in his place.

And of course, sometimes mistakes like this happen due to similarities, and one person is mistaken for another.

So who has bestowed upon His servants these subtleties of wisdom that have never occurred to anyone, and all of which are in accordance with the best interests, except God, whose mercy encompasses all things?

If you see a human face painted on a wall and someone tells you that this image was created without any painter, of course you will not accept it, and you will mock who claims this. So how can you deny this in an inanimate face painted on a wall, and not in a living, speaking person?

The Bodies Of Animals Do Not Grow Forever

Consider why the bodies of animals do not always grow, despite constant food intake. Rather, they remain at a certain size and do not grow bigger. This is because the advantage of each class of animals and their species is that they should reach a certain height and thickness, so that they do not resemble each other and the advantages for which they were created are not lost. If they were constantly growing, those benefits would be lost. Therefore, when they reach their ultimate limit, they do not grow anymore despite eating food.

Why Does Man Get Tired And Feel Pain?

Why does the human body, particularly among other animals, get tired from movement and walking? And why is it difficult for it to perform delicate crafts. and it does not do them except with great difficulty in what people need for clothing and the like?

And if a person never experienced pain or suffering, what would make him abandon immorality and sin, and what would make him humble himself before God and supplicate to Him? And would make him show kindness to people and give donations to the poor?

Don't you see how someone who is afflicted with an illness submits and humbles himself, seeks refuge in God, seeks healing from the One who heals the sick, and opens his hands to give donations?

And if a person did not suffer from beatings, what would kings use to punish thieves and bandits, what would they use to humiliate and subjugate the disobedient and rebellious, what would they use to teach children the knowledge and crafts, what would they use to humble servants to their masters?

Are these not proofs against Ibn Abi al-Awja and his like from the atheists, and Mani the Painter and his followers from the Zoroastrians, who deny the wisdom of pain and suffering in the world?

The Creation Of Both Male And Female

If either male or female were not born from humans or from other animals, the human race would certainly cease to exist and animals would also become extinct. Therefore, the All-Knowing and Wise has decreed that from every type of animal, both male and female should be born.

The Creation Of Hair

Why does pubic hair grow in men and women when they reach puberty?

Why does facial hair grow on men's face but not on women's?

Because God Almighty has made man the guardian and employer of woman, and has made woman his companion and created her for him. Therefore, He has given man a beard to bring him honor, glory, and awe, and He has not given it to woman so that the freshness of her face, beauty, and grace, which are appropriate for her and are for the pleasure of man, may remain for her. So don't you see that whatever the Wise and the Knowing has done in every matter, is in accordance with wisdom, and there is no error in it?

Mofazzal said: When the conversation reached this point, it was getting late, and my master stood up for prayer and said, "Go now and return to me tomorrow morning." So I returned to my home happy and content with what I had acquired in knowledge, and I praised God for what my master had taught me.

The Second Day: The Animals

Mofazzal said that when the second day came, I returned to my master in the morning and after asking permission, I went in and sat down.

Then he said: I praise God, who is the Creator of the heavens, who brings after every age another age, and after every age a time, to punish the evildoers with what they have done, and to reward the doers of good with double what they have done, for justice.

He is the One whose names are holy and whose blessings are great. He does not wrong people in any way, but people wrong themselves. As He Himself has said, "*whoever does a good deed, even as little as the weight of an atom will see it, and whoever does an evil deed, even as little as the weight of an atom will see it*", along with many verses that the All-Knowing God has sent down on this subject in the Book of the Wise.

Therefore, the Prophet (PBUH) said: "*It is your deeds that will be returned to you on the Day of Resurrection.*"

After these words, he bowed his head for a moment and then he said:

O Mofazzal, these people are all astonished, blind, and intoxicated, and they wander in their rebellion, and they follow their deities and devils. They are outwardly sighted, but inwardly blind, they do not see. They are talkative, but in speaking the truth

they are mute, they do not understand anything. They are hearers, but in hearing the truth they are deaf, they do not hear anything.

They have become content with this lowly world and think that they are guided. They have sought the path of cunning, and have grazed in the pastures of the lord of impurity. It is as if they are safe from the sudden arrival of death. How great will be their misery and hardship, and how far and long will be their suffering, and how great will be their calamity and misery on the Day when the help of those who help will be of no avail, and no one will be helped except those on whom God has mercy.

Mofazzal said: When I heard these healing sermons from my master, I cried. He said: Don't cry, because when you accepted the truth, you were saved, and when you recognized your leader, you were saved.

Then he said: I will begin by mentioning animals to you so that the wonders of the wisdom of animal creation may become clear to you, just as you have learned about the wonders of other industries.

The Structure Of Animal Bodies

Think about how the Creator of human beings and souls has arranged the structure of animal bodies. It is not very rigid, like a stone. If it were like that, it would not bend, and actions could not be performed by it. It is not very soft neither, because if it were like that, it would not be able to stand on its feet and endure difficult tasks.

So He made the exterior of the body soft flesh, and placed solid bone in the middle to hold it in place, and He bound the bones together with nerves, tendons, and blood vessels, so that they would not fall apart, and He stretched skin over everything to protect it.

And it is similar to this creation, the dolls that are made of wood and wrapped in clothes and tied together, the wood is tied with strings and gum is applied to them.

So those sticks are like bones, and the clothes are like flesh, and the strings are like nerves and blood vessels, and the gum on them is like skin.

If it is permissible for a living, moving animal to come together without a maker, it would be permissible for that inanimate example to also come into being without a maker. And if reason does not permit the creation of an inanimate form, it will not permit it in the first place in a human being who possesses perception and soul.

Most Animals Have Hearing And Sight But Not Intellect

After this, think about the body of the animal, which is created like the human body from flesh, skin, and bones, and has been given hearing and sight, so that man can use it in his needs. For if it were deaf, it would not benefit him and would not be of any use to him. And He did not give it the mind and intellect that He gave to man so that it would be humble to man and obedient to him, and that when man wants to burden it with heavy burdens and command it to do difficult things, it would not refuse.

If someone says that there are slaves who obey a person despite their intelligence and endure difficult tasks at his command, we would answer that this class of people is very few and most people can't endure some tasks that cattle can endure, such as pulling loads, grinding, and the like, and they can't stand up to these tasks.

And likewise, if men endure the things that cattle endure, they will certainly cease from their other works. For instead of every camel and donkey, a great multitude of men must endure its work. Therefore, all men must do the works of cattle and cease from their

own industries and works, and great hardship will befall them, and poverty and emergency will arise in their livelihood.

Intelligent Man With Large Hands

Think, O Mofazzal, about these three classes of animals, namely humans, cattle, and birds, each of which He has endowed with that which is appropriate to the wisdom of its being. Therefore, since He has destined humans to be intelligent and clever and to be skilled in crafts such as masonry, goldsmithing, carpentry, and others, He has created for them large hands with thick, strong fingers that can grasp things and perform these crafts.

The Animals That Hunt

And since He has destined carnivorous animals to live off hunting, He has created for them hands of the utmost strength, with nails and claws, suitable for catching prey and not useful for human industries.

The Animals That Eat Grass

And for animals that eat grass, because they were not created for industry or hunting, He created hooves for them so that when they graze in pastures, the roughness of the ground would not harm them. And for cattle, He created hooves that have hollows like the soles of a human foot that fit on the ground so that they are ready for riding and carrying.

The Animals Of Prey

Consider the wisdom of the Almighty Creator in creating animals of prey and hunting. How He created for them sharp, cutting fangs, strong, hard claws, and wide mouths suitable for the situation for which they were created, and how He equipped them with weapons and tools suitable for hunting.

And you will also find birds of prey with beaks and claws, which are suitable for their work. If He had given herbivores claws, He would have given them something that they do not need, because they do not hunt and do not eat meat. And if He had given predators hooves, He would have deprived them of something that they need, namely, something with which to hunt their food and survive.

Do you not see that He has bestowed from the treasury of His perfect power upon each of these two classes of animals what is appropriate for its class and rank, and therein lies the survival and well-being of that animal

The Cattle

Now look at the cattle, how they follow their mothers after birth and do not need to be raised, as human children do.

So, because their mothers did not have what human mothers have in terms of tolerance, knowledge of upbringing, and strength, as well as the wide palms and long fingers that are useful for these tasks, at the time of their birth, He gave them the strength to stand, walk, and move without a coach or nurse, so that they would not be wasted and would reach their fullest potential without the training of coaches.

And thus you find many birds, such as chickens, ducks, and the like, at the moment they hatch from their eggs, they walk and gather seeds; and those that are weak and do not have the strength to fly or walk, such as the chicks of domestic and wild pigeons and their like, the Creator has placed in their mothers an abundance of kindness that collect the seeds in their crops and pour them into the mouths of the chicks until they fly themselves.

Therefore, for this reason, God Almighty did not give them many chicks, as He did with hens and their like, so that the mother could handle raising them and they would not perish and die.

Therefore, each one has received an appropriate benefit from the plan of the Wise and Subtle Creator.

The Legs Of Animals

Look at the legs of animals, He created them all in pairs so that walking would be easy for them, and if they were single or odd, it would not be suitable for them. Because an animal that walks lifts some legs and relies on others.

So an animal that has four legs raises two legs and places the other two on the ground, but in opposite directions, one leg on one side and the other on the other. Because if it lifts two legs on one side, it can't stand on the ground, just as a chair can't stand if its two legs are lifted on one side. So it lifts its right arm with its left leg so that it does not fall while walking.

The Obedient Animals

And don't you see how the donkey submits to grinding and carrying loads, even though it sees that the horse is exempt from these services and is left to rest?

And how a camel, with such power that if it rebels, a large group of strong men can't resist it, become obedient to a child?

And how does an ox with that power obey its owner until a plow is placed on its neck and it plows?

And how the noble Arabian horse endures the pain of sword and spear for the approval of its owner?

And one man shepherds the flock of sheep. If they scatter and each one goes his own way, who can go after them all and catch them?

And also the animal classes that have been subjugated by the children of Adam, they can't be subjugated by man except because they are not endowed with intelligence and prudence, for if they were endowed with intelligence, they would certainly have refused most of the needs of the children of Adam; until the camel did not obey the one who pulled its head, the cow became disobedient to its owner, the sheep scattered from their shepherd, and other animals did not obey their owners.

The Fearful Predators

Likewise, if predators were intelligent and conspired together to harm mankind, men would all soon become desperate, and who would be able to withstand the lions, tigers, and leopards?

And if they had agreed with each other and supported each other, they would certainly have been able to drive humans to despair. And who could have resisted and defended lions, wolves, leopards, and bears if they had all agreed with each other and helped each other in repelling and exterminating human beings?

Do you not see how the Wise and All-Knowing Creator has forbidden them from these matters? Instead of people being afraid of them, He has made them fearful and evasive of people. They avoid the dwellings of the children of Adam and withdraw from their homes. Out of fear of them, they go out at night to seek their sustenance and hide during the day. Despite the power and strength they have, they are fearful and terrified of people without any harm being done to them by people.

If it were not for the fact that God Almighty created them devoid of reason, ignorant, and fearful of the children of Adam, they would certainly have stood up to them in the midst of the houses of men and made things difficult for them.

The Kind Dog

And among the beasts, the dog is made kind to its owner, so that it will support him and do its utmost to protect him. So at night, it rises to the roof and walls to guard its owner's house and ward off thieves.

It reaches a level of love for its owner where it sacrifices its life for his life, property, and animals, and develops the utmost affection for him to the point that even if it suffers hunger, oppression, and fatigue, it will not leave him.

So who gave the dog these qualities to be a guard for its owner, other than God, who originally gave it the tools to do this, its sharp fangs, its fierce claws, and its loud, terrifying sound that makes thieves afraid and avoid surrounding the places where it is located?

The Wisdom In Creation of Cattle

O Mofazzal, reflect on the cattle and the wisdom that God Almighty has used in them. He has placed their eyes in front of them so that they can walk straight and see before their feet so that they do not bump into a wall or fall into a well.

And the slits of their mouths were placed below, because if, like humans, their mouths were above the chin, they would certainly not have been able to take anything from the earth with their mouths, just as it is difficult for a human to eat anything from the earth with their mouths.

So, to give man dignity, honor, and distinction from other animals, He created palms and fingers for him to hold and eat food.

And since it was not in the best interests of the cattle to have such hands, He placed their mouths at the bottom so that they could grab grass with their teeth and put it in their mouths, and He gave them long snouts so that their mouths could reach near and far.

The Tail Of The Animals

Learn a lesson from the benefits that the Wise and Knowing God has placed in the tail of an animal. First, it is a covering for its private parts, just like humans. Second, pus collects between its back and abdomen, where mosquitoes and flies gather and bother it. Its tail is like a fan for it, which drives them away from that position and other positions. Third, since its arms and legs are busy carrying its body, it rests by moving its tail to the right and left, and there are many benefits in it that become apparent in times of need. Just as when it sinks into the mud, there is no better way to get it out than to grab its tail and pull it out. And also there are many benefits in its tail hair that people use for their needs.

The Back Of The Cattle

He made the backs of the cattle flat so that they would not lie on their faces and stand on all fours so that they could be easily ridden.

And the female genitalia of the cattle is made visible from behind her back, so that the male can easily have intercourse with it, and if it were in the lower abdomen like the women's vagina, the male would certainly not be able to have intercourse with it, because he can't lie her down on her back and have intercourse with her in the way that humans do.

The Elephant

Think about the elephant's trunk and the grace and wisdom that it has. For it is like its hand, taking up grass and pouring water into its belly, and if it were not for its trunk, it would not be able to pick up anything from the ground. For it does not have a neck to stretch out like other quadrupeds. Since it does not have such a neck, it has been helped by this long trunk to lift and carry what it wants.

So who has bestowed this limb upon it other than the One who created it by His grace? And how can such wisdom come about through coincidence, as atheists say?

If someone asks why He did not give it a neck befitting his size like the cattle, we will answer that the elephant's head and ears are a great thing and a heavy burden. If it were to carry this burden on a neck, it would surely break and ruin that neck. Therefore, He made the head of the elephant attached to its body so that this difficulty would not arise, and instead of a neck, He gave it a trunk with which to carry its food. So, without any need for a neck, He fulfilled his needs and put his affairs in order.

Consider how He created the vagina of the female elephant under her belly, and whenever the desire for intercourse overcomes it, she makes it appear so that the male can easily have intercourse with it.

So learn a lesson from how God Almighty created the elephant unlike other animals, and in such a way that the matters of food and intercourse are possible as they should be.

The Giraffe

Think about the creation of the giraffe and the differences in its members and the similarity of each of its members to other animals. For its head resembles the head of a horse, its neck resembles the neck of a camel, its hooves resemble the hooves of a cow, and its skin resembles the skin of a leopard.

A group of ignorant people have thought that such an animal is born from the intercourse of several types of animals with one female. They said that the reason for this is that when groups of desert animals gather near water, several groups of them mate with one female and this animal is born, and thus every part of it resembles one of those animals' part.

And this statement is due to the ignorance of the one who says it and his lack of knowledge of the power of the Almighty Creator. Because no class of animal mates with another class. You see that a horse does not mate with a camel, and a camel does not mate with a cow. Yes, if an animal is similar in shape to another animal, it sometimes mates with it, like when a donkey mates with a horse and from them a mule is born, or a wolf mates with a hyena and from them an animal is born that is called "Sam".

And the animal that comes from them, although it resembles both animals, is not in such a way that each part of it resembles an animal, like the giraffe. Rather, its totality resembles the totality of those two animals. Just as mule's head, tail, ears, and hooves are in the middle, between these parts of a horse and a donkey. Even its voice seems to be a mixture of those two animals.

And this is the reason why the giraffe was not created from these different animals, but rather is an amazing creation of the unique Creator, to show people His perfect power, beyond which nothing is possible, and to make them know that the Creator of all animal species is one.

If He wills, He can combine the members of several animals into one animal, and He can make the members of animals diverse, and He adds to creation whatever He wills, and He diminishes whatever He wills, and His power is not incapable of doing whatever He wills.

The giraffe's long neck is because its origin, breeding ground, and pasture are in forests with very tall trees. Therefore, it needs a long neck to grab leaves from very tall trees with its mouth and obtain its food from their fruits.

The Monkey

Think about the creation of the monkey and its resemblance to man in many of its parts. For its head, face, hands, and chest are like those of man, and its intestines and bowels are like those of man, and God has given it some intelligence and understanding that it understands every gesture its owner makes and imitates most of man's movements.

And one of the reasons for the creation of the monkey is that man should know that he was created from the type and quality of animals and cattle, and that the Wise Creator has given him superiority over other animals in intellect and speech. If it were not for his intellect and speech, he would be like cattle and animals. Therefore, he should thank God for this great blessing and great gift and engage his intellect in what is useful to him.

Although there are several extras in the body of a monkey that distinguish it from humans, such as a snout, a tail, and the hair that covers its body, if God Almighty had given it human intelligence and speech, it would have been included in the human species.

So, there is no difference between him and man except in intellect, understanding of truths, and superior speech.

The Clothes Of Animals vs The Clothes of Men

Look, O Mofazzal, at the grace of God Almighty towards animals, how He has covered their bodies with hair, fur, and wool to protect them from cold, heat, and pests, and He has given them cloven and uncloven hooves so that their feet do not wear out.

Because they do not have hands or fingers to make cotton or wool for themselves, He has placed their clothes in their creation, which will not be separated from them as long as they live, and they do not need to be renewed or changed.

And since He has given man hands, fingers, and the intelligence to prepare for himself garments and various types of clothing, He has not created clothing as an inherent part of his creation, and there are many benefits for him in these actions.

First, being busy with these activities prevents him from committing immorality, prohibitions, corruption, and harming the servants of God. Second, taking off his clothes at times is a comfort for him and wearing them in some situations is a pleasure. Third, wearing different kinds of clothes, turbans, and shoes of different colors and changing them makes him more beautiful. Fourth, all kinds of occupations and livelihoods come together for people because of the industries that belong to these, and they and their families earn their livelihood through these industries. In other animals, wool, hair, and fur are used instead of clothes, and hooves are used instead of shoes.

The Carcasses Of Dead Animals

Think, O Mofazzal, about the strange creation that God Almighty has forced animals to hide their bodies from people when they die, just as people bury their dead. If this were not the case, then where are the carcasses of wild animals, predators, birds, and others? None of them are visible, and their number is not small, so that they can't be seen because they are few, but if someone says that they are more than humans, he is right.

Don't you see in the deserts and mountains herds of deer and elk, as well as wild animals and all kinds of predators, such as lions, wolves, leopards, hyenas, and others, and all kinds of insects, and flocks of birds, such as crows, pigeons, ducks, geese, and birds of prey?

And you will not find any carcasses of all these except the rare ones that a hunter catches or a predator kills. Each of these

animals, when they feel the effects of their death, hides in certain places and dies there. If this were not the case, the deserts would be filled with their carcasses until they foul the air, and plagues and diseases would spread among the people because of it.

So consider how the burial of the dead, which the children of Adam learned at the beginning of the world from the story of Cain killing Abel, and the appearance of two birds, one of which killed the other and hid it in the ground, how God Almighty placed it in the nature of animals so that people could be saved from the corruption of their carcasses.

The Cleverness Among Animals

Think, O Mofazzal, of the cleverness that God Almighty has placed in animals for their benefit by His all-encompassing grace. No creature is deprived of the bounties of His grace, and every creature receives an abundant share of His creation according to its capacity.

The Deer

Just as a deer eats a snake and becomes very thirsty and forbids itself from drinking water lest the venom of the snake run through its body and destroy it, it stops by the side of a water source and cries out in extreme thirst, but it does not drink from the water present. If it drinks, it will perish in an instant. This is the reason for the loud wailing that is frequently heard from it in the deserts.

So consider how the wise Creator has forced the nature of this animal to endure such an overwhelming thirst, out of fear of its harm, while a human being who is extremely intelligent and discerning would not often restrain himself from such a thing, for fear of harm.

The Fox

And when the fox finds no prey, it pretends to be dead and inflates its belly to such an extent that a bird that passes by it thinks it is dead. So, eager to catch it and eat its flesh, it sits on its body. Then the fox jumps and hunts it.

So God, who made it dependent on sustenance and did not give it speech and reason, forced its nature to earn its living by these fox games. Because the fox does not have the ability that other predators, such as lions, tigers, leopards, and the like, have to overcome and fight with their prey. So, instead of the ability that He did not give it, the Wise and Knowing has bestowed on it more intelligence and cleverness so that it can earn its living.

The Dolphin

And when a dolphin wants to hunt a bird in the middle of the water, it kills a fish and rips open its belly so that it can stand on the water, and it hides under the fish and moves the water so that its body is not visible underwater; and when a bird comes from the air to hunt the dead fish, it jumps up and catches the bird.

So consider how this animal is inspired to devise such a trick for the sake of its own livelihood.

The Serpent And The Cloud

Mofazzal said: "Tell me, O my master, about the serpent and the cloud."

The Imam said that the cloud is responsible for the serpent, which it snatches wherever it finds it, just as a magnet steals iron. Therefore, in seasons when there are many clouds, the serpent does not come out of its hole, and in the middle of summer when there are no clouds in the sky, it comes out.

Mofazzal said I asked: "why the cloud is made responsible for it?" Imam said that it was to ward off its harm from people.

The Ant

Mofazzal said: I said, "O my master, you have described to me the creatures like the cattle and the wonders of their creation, enough for someone who takes a lesson. I want you to describe to me the wonders of the creation of ants and birds."

The Imam said: O Mofazzal, reflect on the small, insignificant ant. Do you find any flaw in it? Then where does this correct plan in creating the small, insignificant ant come from except from the plan of the One who, before His power, the small and the big, the great and the insignificant are equal.

Look at the ants and the effort they put into collecting and providing for their sustenance. A group of them unites to carry grains to their homes, just as a group of people unite to carry food or anything else. In fact, the diligence and effort that ants put into this matter is greater than that of humans.

Don't you see how they help each other in carrying the seeds to the holes, just as people help each other in their work? Then they cut the seeds in half so that they don't sprout or get wasted, and when any moisture gets in them or water gets in their holes, they take them out and put them in the sun to dry.

And they make their holes in high ground so that they are not in the path of the flood and the flood does not drown them. All this is done by them without reason or thought, by the inspiration of the Creator who created them and guided them, out of his grace and mercy.

The Lion Of Flies

Look at the animal that the common people call "Asad al-Dhabab", meaning "the lion of flies", and see how much cunning and cleverness God has given it to earn a living.

Whenever it feels that a fly has landed near it, it gives it a period of time and pretends to be dead to it and does not move until it knows that the fly is confident and has become oblivious to it. Then it moves smoothly so that the fly does not notice it, and when it reaches a place where it can catch it with one jump, it jumps up and catches it. When it catches it, it holds it firmly with all its legs so that it does not escape from it, and it continues to hold it like this until it feels that it has become weak. Then it tears it apart and makes it its prey.

The Spider

As for the spider, the house it builds is a trap that it builds to catch flies and hides in the middle of it. When a fly is caught in that trap, it goes near it and bites it hour after hour, and lives its life this way.

And those who hunt with nets and traps use the same spider tactic and hunt animals in this way.

So look at these weak animals like the "the lion of flies" and the spider. How the Wise and the Planner has placed in their nature a trick for hunting and earning their livelihood that a person can't achieve without tricks and using tools.

Taking A Lesson Even From An Insignificant Thing

And do not consider as unimportant and insignificant, something that can be used as a lesson in great matters, such as the tiny ant and its like. For there are many who compare the noble meaning to such a humble one. This comparison does not cause any

deficiency in the noble meaning. Just as if gold and silver were weighed in a balance with stone and iron, it does not cause any deficiency in their value.

The Birds

Then Imam said: Consider, O Mofazzal, the body of birds and their creation. For since God Almighty has decreed that they fly in the air, He has made their bodies light and has made them with two legs instead of the four legs that He created in other animals, and has given them four fingers instead of five, and has provided them with just one hole for both urine and droppings, and has made their chest narrow and sharp so that it can split the air in the same way that the chest of a ship is made to split the water, and He has created strong feathers in their wings and tail to be instruments of flight, and has covered their entire body with a garment of feathers so that the air can enter between them so that they can float in the air.

And since He decreed that its food should be grain or meat, which it should swallow without chewing, He did not create teeth for it, and instead gave it a hard, dry beak with which it could take its food. And its beak would not be torn from picking grain or broken from tearing flesh.

And since it has no teeth, it eats seeds whole and meat raw. So it is helped by the great heat that He has placed inside its body, which allows it to digest its food in a short time without chewing or cooking.

As you can see, grape seeds and other seeds pass right through the human stomach, but are digested in the stomach of a bird, leaving no trace of them.

And again, He has ordained that they lay eggs and hatch chicks from the eggs, and do not give birth to children like other animals.

Because if the child remains in their womb until it becomes strong, it will certainly make them heavy and prevent them from rising and flying. So, He has made every part of the bird's creation suitable and similar to the thing that it was destined to be in that state.

Consider how a bird that flies constantly in the air sits on an egg it has laid for the benefit of its young for a week, sometimes two weeks, sometimes three weeks, and holds the egg under its wing until it hatches. When the chick hatches, it blows air into the chick's mouth until its crop opens, and it gathers its food and pours it down its throat so that the chick can be trained and live. So who has made that animal responsible for gathering the seed and storing it in its crop and then returning it to feed its young?

And why does it endure this hardship, when it is not a visionary or thoughtful person, and does not have the hope in his own offspring of the support, honor, and perpetuation of his name in the world that a person has in his own child?

So it becomes clear that God, who created it, placed in its nature the desire to mate and raise chicks, and forced it to do these things, for no reason of its own and without any thought of the consequences, so that its offspring would survive and its species would not become extinct. All of this is due to the grace of God, the All-Wise.

The Hen

Look at the hens, how they get excited to gather eggs and hatch chicks, even though they have not found any eggs yet and do not think that a nest is ready for them. Then they are stirred up and the wind blows in them and they scream and do not eat anything until their owner is forced to gather eggs for them, and they take them under their wings and hatch chicks.

So the Wise and Knowing One has placed this state in them so that their species may survive, and has forced them to do so without thinking.

The Egg

Take a lesson from the creation of the egg and from the thick yellow water and the thin white water that He created in it, some to produce a chick from it, and some to be the food of the chick until it hatches.

Consider that since the chick must be raised in a strong shell, with no way to get its food during that time, He created something within the egg that will be its food until it hatches. It is like someone who is locked up in a fortified castle, where nothing can be sent inside from the outside. They must provide enough food in that castle to last him until he is released from there.

The Bird's Crop

Consider the structure of the bird's crop and what He has ordained for them, for the food passage is narrow towards the gizzard, and food does not penetrate it except gradually.

If the bird did not eat the second grain until the first grain reached the gizzard, it would take a long time, and how could it satisfy its hunger? While it is rushing to snatch its grain because of the extreme caution it has against human hunters and animal predators.

So the crop is like a container hung in front of it, where it can hold any food it finds and any grain available, with utmost speed. Then it gradually and repeatedly inserts those grains into its gizzard, which is like its stomach, so that it can be digested and become part of its body.

And there is another benefit to the crop, and that benefit is that some birds need to pour food from their mouths into the mouths of their chicks, and it is easier to return the food from this crop than from the gizzard.

The Colors And The Shapes In The Feathers Of Birds

Mofazzal said: I said that a group of atheists who consider the universe to be without planning, think that the differences in colors and shapes in the feathers of birds are due to the mixing of bodily fluids, and that differences in quantities occur without the will of the Almighty.

The Imam said: O Mofazzal, how do these various colors that you observe in the feathers of peacocks and the like, with the symmetry of shapes and the contrast of variations, which painters admit to being unable to draw with a pen, arise from the unconscious nature and the mixture of bodily fluids, without the planning of the Almighty? – God is much greater than what the atheists say. –

The Feathers Of Birds

Consider how the feathers of birds are woven together, like garments made up of warps and wefts, so that when you pull them, they gradually open until the wind enters between them and holds them in the air as they fly.

And you see that he has built a thick vertical column in the middle and woven feathers around it so that it can hold them upright with its rigidity. He has also made that vertical column hollow so that it is not heavy on the bird and does not prevent it from flying.

The Bird With Long Legs

O Mofazzal, have you seen that bird with long legs? And do you know what benefit there is in its long legs?

Its advantage is that it spends most of its time in the water, and its body, resting on its long legs, is like a watchtower standing on a high place, waiting for animals. Whenever it sees an animal that could be its prey, it slowly walks up to snatch it.

If its legs were short, whenever it ran towards its prey, its belly would touch the water and set it in motion, and the prey would flee. So He gave it those two long legs so that it could reach its needs and its desires would not be spoiled.

Think about the various devices of the Wise and Almighty in the creation of birds. Indeed, every bird that has long legs has a long neck, so that it can pick up its prey from the ground. If its legs were long and its neck short, it would not be able to pick up anything from the ground easily, and sometimes it is assisted by a long neck and a long beak, so that the task is easier for it. Therefore, you will find every part of creation that you contemplate to be extremely right and wise.

The Sparrow And Its Sustenance

Look at the sparrow and its like, how they fly every day in search of sustenance, and they do find their sustenance, and it is not that their sustenance is gathered and ready for them. Rather, they have to move and search for it. And so are animals and humans. He has determined their sustenance and it is possible and necessary for each one to find it, and He has not made their sustenance so that they can't find it after seeking it, because they need it, and He has not made it so that it comes easily to them and is gathered for them in one place, because there is no benefit in that neither.

But animals, if their food is gathered in one place, will throw themselves at it and eat so much that they perish. And humans, if they are not forced to earn their food, will become corrupt,

rebellious, and from ease and idleness, they will commit all kinds of sins.

The Birds Which Come Out At Night

Do you know what the prey of these birds is, which do not come out except at night, like owls? I said, "No, my master."

He said: Their livelihood is from animals that are in the air, such as mosquitoes, small moths, small grasshoppers, honey flies, and the like, which are scattered in the air, and no place is empty of them.

And learn from the fact that whenever you light a lamp on the roof or in the yard of your house at night, many insects immediately gather around it. If these are not in the air, then where do they come from?

If someone says that they came from the deserts and wildernesses, we answer that in this short time, how do they travel such a long distance from such distant locations and find a lighted lamp in the middle of a house and surround it? And how do they notice that light and gather around it?

So this is a proof that these types of insects are everywhere in the air, and that birds that come out at night, fly, open their mouths, and snatch these insects in mid-air and turn them into their food.

So look at how these insects in the air were created for birds that fly at night, and understand the reason for the creation of these creatures, because there are those who think that the creation of these insects is meaningless and of no benefit, and are oblivious to this great benefit.

The Bat

Consider the strangeness of the creation of the bat, which has made it intermediate between birds and cattle. Rather, it is closer to

cattle, because it has two wide ears, teeth, fur, becomes pregnant, gives birth to children, gives milk, urinates, and walks on four legs. All of this is contrary to the creation of other birds. And again, unlike other birds, it comes out at night and its food is the insects of the air.

And some scholars have thought that the bat has no food and that its food is the breeze, and this thought is false in two ways. First, it produces urine and excrement, and how can urine and excrement be produced from the breeze? Second, God created teeth for it. If it did not have food that it needed to chew, the creation of teeth would have been useless for it, and no part of creation is useless.

As for the benefits of the existence of the bat, it is well known. Even its excrement is used in some actions. One of the greatest benefits of its existence is its strange creation, which indicates the power of the Almighty Creator over whatever He wills and in whatever way He wills, and He sees benefit in it.

A Little Bird Called "Ibn Tamra"

And as for that little bird, which is called "Ibn Tamra", and it is a bird smaller than a sparrow. Sometimes it built a nest on a tree; it looked and saw a huge snake that was about to nest and had opened its mouth to swallow its chicks. Seeing this state, it became anxious and thought of a way to repel such an enemy. Suddenly, its gaze fell on "Hakka", which is a plant that has thorns on all sides. So, inspired by God Almighty, it took the thorn with its beak and threw it into the snake's mouth, and it got stuck in its throat, and it became anxious and rolled on the ground until it died.

If I had not informed you of this strange matter, how would you or anyone else have known that such a great benefit could be imagined from Hakka, or that such a cunning trick could emerge

from such a small bird? And in many things there are benefits that are not known except by an incident that occurs or something that is heard.

The Bee

Think about the bees and their gathering in making honey and preparing honeycombs and the subtleties used in it. Indeed, when you reflect on the action, it is extremely strange and delicate, and its implementation is extremely noble and beneficial, and when you consider its doer, it is extremely ignorant, unable to understand itself, let alone other matters.

So this is a clear proof that the rightness and wisdom in this industry do not come from the bee, but from the All-Knowing and All-Aware One who has subjected the nature of this animal to these strange industries and has subjugated it for the benefit of mankind.

The Grasshopper

And consider the grasshopper, which is extremely weak, but how powerful the All-Knowing God has made it. For when you reflect on its creation, it is like the weakest of things; however, if an army of them were to gather and approach a city, no one would be able to repel them beforehand. And if a king of the most powerful kings were to gather his army of horsemen and footmen to protect his country from the evil of grasshoppers, he would not be able to do so. This is again one of the reasons for the Creator's power to send His weakest creation to His strongest creation, and the latter is unable to repel it.

Look at it, as it moves towards the heights, how it moves over the earth like a flood, engulfing mountains, plains, valleys, cities, villages, and deserts to the extent that it covers the light of the sun from many places.

If these were to be made by hand over a long period of time, all creation would not be able to accomplish even a tenth of it. So argue with the power of the Almighty, for nothing is beyond His power and nothing is beyond His ability.

The Fish

Consider the creation of the fish and the purpose for which it was created. Indeed, He created it without legs, because it does not need to walk, because its habitat is water. And He did not give it lungs, because it can't breathe in the water. And instead of legs, He gave it two strong fins, which it uses to beat the water on its sides, just as a sailor places oars on either side of a ship, by the movement of which the ship moves.

And its body is covered with strong scales that are inserted into each other like rings of armor to protect it from harm. And because its eyesight is weak and also the water prevents it from seeing, it has been given a strong sense of smell that allows it to smell its prey from a great distance and seek it out. If it did not have such a sense of smell, it would not be able to achieve its sustenance.

And from its mouth there is a path to its ears, and it fills its mouth with water and expels it through its ears, and it finds comfort in this, just as other animals find comfort in breathing air.

Why Are The Fishes So Abundant?

Now consider the abundance of fish species. If you see in each cavity of each fish so many eggs that it is impossible to count them, the reason for this abundance is that most types of animals feed on fish. Even predators that live in reeds stand by the water and lie in wait for fish to be snatched when they are found. Since humans and predators all eat fish, and fish also eat fish, it is the wisdom of the Almighty to create it with such abundance.

The Benefits Of Aquatic Animals

If you want to know the vastness of the wisdom of the Creator of the worlds and the limited knowledge of humans, look at what He has created in the seas, including all kinds of fish, aquatic animals, shellfish, and other creatures, the number of which no one can count, and their benefits can't be known, except for the rare ones that people learned about over time and through the occurrence of various events.

Like "Ghermez" which people discovered to dye with it, because a dog was wandering by the sea and found a thing from a class called snail, so the dog ate it and its mouth became colored with its blood. When people saw the dog's mouth, they liked that color and discovered this color. And there are many examples like this that people sometimes become aware of and realize their benefits.

Mofazzal said: When the conversation reached this point, it was time for the prayer, and my master stood up for prayer and told me to return tomorrow morning. So I returned to my house, happy and delighted with what my master had revealed to me of the subtleties of knowledge and the wonders of wisdom. I praised and glorified God for this great blessing, and at night I slept with the utmost joy and delight.

The Third Day: The Universe

In the morning, I returned to the Imam and asked for permission, went in and sat down. Then he said:

Praise and gratitude be to God for choosing us, making us special with His knowledge, and strengthening us with His patience. Whoever turns away from us, his abode will be Hell, and whoever remains under the shadow of our guidance, his abode will be Paradise.

O Mofazzal, I have explained to you the creation of man and what God Almighty has brought upon him in various states from his emergence from non-existence to his entry into existence. I have also explained to you the wonders of the wisdom of God in the creation of other types of animals.

Now I will begin by mentioning the sky, the sun, the moon, the stars, the rotating firmament, night and day, cold and heat, fire and rain, stones and mountains, mines, plants and trees, and what has appeared in them as examples.

The Color Of The Sky

Think about the color of the sky. He created it in this color because it is the most suitable color for the eyes and strengthens the eyesight. Even doctors say that if someone has a weakness in his eyes, he should look at a dark blue color, and some of the wise doctors ruled that someone who has a weakness in his eyesight

should constantly look into a blue container filled with water. So think about how God Almighty made the sky dark blue so that repeatedly looking at the sky would not harm the eyes.

So what the wise and learned have realized after many experiences, when you look at the creation of the Wise and All-Knowing, you will find it consistent with that. The supreme wisdom of God is evident in everything. Those who take lessons from it should learn from it and atheists should reflect on it.

The Rising And Setting Of The Sun

Think, O Mofazzal, about the rising and setting of the sun for the establishment of night and day. If the rising of the sun did not occur, all the affairs of the world would be in vain, and people would not be able to strive and manage their livelihood, and the world would always be dark to them, and life would not be pleasant to them without light and illumination. Indeed, the benefits of the rising of the sun are so evident that they don't need to be described.

Rather, reflect on the benefits of sunset, for without it, people would not be able to find peace and quiet, given the intense need people have for rest so that their bodies can recover from fatigue, their senses can be strengthened, and their digestion can be stimulated to digest food and deliver it to the organs.

And if it were always day, it would make people's greed drive them to work continuously and wear out their bodies. Indeed, many people are so greedy for acquiring and accumulating wealth that if the darkness of night did not prevent them, they would certainly not rest and would work so much that they would exhaust themselves.

And likewise, if night did not come, the heat of the sun would scorch the earth to such an extent that animals and plants would

perish. Therefore, the Almighty, in His wisdom and predestination, has ordained that the sun should sometimes rise and sometimes set, like a lamp that is sometimes lit for the householders to use to satisfy their needs and sometimes to turn off and rest. Therefore, light and darkness, which are opposites to each other, both serve to regulate the order of the universe and the affairs of human beings.

The Four Different Seasons

And also think about how the sun goes up and comes down in the sky during a year, so that in each year, four different seasons arise and the plan of the Wise and Almighty is revealed.

So, in winter, heat is hidden within trees and plants, where fruits are born, and a condensation occurs in the air, from which clouds and rain are born in the air, and the bodies of animals become firm and strong.

And in the spring, the substances that were born in trees and plants in the winter come into motion, and plants, flowers, and blossoms grow, and animals move to bring forth offspring.

And in summer, due to the intense heat of the air, fruits ripen and excess moisture and harmful secretions from animal bodies decompose. Also, since the moisture on the ground decreases, construction and work become easier.

And in autumn, the air clears, illnesses are cured, bodies are restored, and the nights become longer, so that deeds performed at night increase. If I were to investigate the benefits of these seasons, the discussion would be lengthy.

The Year

Now think about the sun's movement through the twelve zodiac signs, namely Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra,

Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius, and Pisces, and the Creator's plan for them.

Indeed, the year ends with this cycle and the four seasons come into effect, namely spring, summer, autumn, and winter. In this amount of movement of the sun, grains and fruits ripen and their work is completed and they will resume their growth and development next year.

Don't you see that the solar year is measured by the movement of the sun from the first of Aries to the first of Aries? By this year, they measure the times from the time when God Almighty created the universe to any era and time they want, and by this, people calculate their ages, and one revolution of the sun completes a year, and these calculations are recorded by it.

The Sun

And consider how the sun shines, which the Wise and Generous One has devised. Indeed, if it were to stand still in one place in the sky and not move, many places would certainly not benefit from its light, and mountains, walls, and ceilings would obstruct its radiance.

And because He wanted its grace to be universal and its benefit complete, He ordained it so that it rises from the east at the beginning of the day and shines on that which is opposite it from the west, and it moves and revolves continuously, and it benefits from its light in different places until it reaches the west and shines on the east, which did not shine at the beginning of the day. So there is no place left that does not benefit from the light of the sun.

How good is His hospitality, who, on His table of kindness, has distributed the bread of the sun to all the inhabitants of possibility, from inanimate objects to plants and animals, leaving none unsatisfied.

If the sun were to set for a year or less and not shine on the people of the world, their condition would be bad, and it would make it impossible for them to have stability and survival under those conditions.

So, don't they see how these glorious things, like the sun, that they need, are moving on their own path, and they have not deviated from their time for the good of the world and the survival of the human race?

The Moon

Argue with the moon, which contains a clear indication of the existence of the Almighty God, which the common people use in understanding the months and by which they recognize the lunar year.

However, it does not agree with the solar year, which is based on the movement of the sun, because the lunar year does not cover all four seasons, and the growth and appearance of fruits and trees does not end during that period. For this reason, lunar months and years deviate from solar months and years, and a lunar month, such as the blessed month of Ramadan, is sometimes in winter and sometimes in summer.

Think about the light and radiance of the moon in the darkness of the black night and its benefits. For although there is an advantage, as we have said, in the darkness of the night for the rest of animals and the coolness of the air for their benefit and that of plants, there is still no advantage in it always being completely dark, with no light in it and no work to be done in it. For many people find it necessary to work at night because of the scarcity of time for them to complete their work during the day due to the intense heat of the air during the day.

So at night in the moonlight they do many things, such as plowing the land, making bricks, cutting wood, and the like. So the Creator of night and day, the Creator of darkness and light, has made the moonlight a helper for people in their livelihood when they need it, and a light for travelers who travel at night.

And again, He has decreed that in some nights it will be the whole night and in others it will not be at all, and He has made its light less than the light of the sun. If it were like the sun, the benefit of the night would be eliminated and people would move about like the day, and peace and quiet would be forbidden to them and this would lead to destruction.

And in the changing conditions of the moon, sometimes it is full, sometimes crescent, sometimes in a waning phase, sometimes in an eclipse, and sometimes it increases at times and decreases at times, there is a lesson for the servants of God, the Creator, who turns it in any way He wills, according to the interests of His servants.

The Stars

Think, O Mofazzal, about the stars and the differences in their movements. Some do not move from their places, but travel together and do not separate from each other, while some are free and move from one constellation to another, separating from each other in their movements.

And each one has two different movements. One is general, which all the stars move by, and that is the daily movement that moves from east to west, and the other is a specific movement that each one has for itself, which is the movement from west to east, like an ant moving to the left on a hand mill and the miller moving the mill to the right. So the ant makes two different movements. One is voluntary, which moves forward, and one is involuntary, which moves backward.

So ask those who argue that these stars are naturally moving, without the planning of the Planner or the design of the Maker, if this is the case, as they say, why are they not all stationary and why are they not all moved from one constellation to another? Since negligence is one meaning, then how can those two different movements be produced in a known amount and a predetermined measure?

Therefore, this proves that the foundation of these two different movements is on the predestination of the All-Knowing, and not on coincidence, as atheists say.

If someone asks why some stars are fixed and some are moving, we would answer that if they were all the same, there would be no difference in their positions relative to each other, and the implication that astronomical positions have on events would certainly be eliminated.

Just as astronomers argue that the movement of the sun and stars in the zodiac and the difference in their positions relative to each other, indicate things that will happen in the world after this. And If they were all moving, the positions and constellations would not be known for the movement of the planets, and the names and signs of the zodiac would be eliminated; for the motion of the planets can only be detected with the help of images (i.e. constellations) that are abstracted from fixed stars.

Like travelers traveling from one place to another and from one city to another, if everyone moved together or everyone moved at the same speed, this meaning would not be fulfilled and the benefits intended in these movements would be lost.

And in that case, someone could say that since all movements follow the same pattern, it may be based on unconscious Nature. Therefore, the difference in these movements with their coherence,

order, and agreement of interests is evidence that it is not due to negligence or coincidence. Rather, it is due to the planning of God, the Almighty Creator.

The Duration Of The Night And The Day

Think, O Mofazzal, about the duration of the night and day, how it has been determined according to the interests of God's servants, and in most cases its maximum is not more than fifteen hours. If the duration of the day were one hundred or two hundred hours, then all that is on the earth, both animals and plants, would surely perish.

In that case, the animals would not rest or settle down for such a long period of time, and the livestock would be busy grazing for such a long time during the day, and the humans would be busy working and moving throughout this entire period, and it is clear that this would have led to their destruction. And also, the plants would dry out and burn from the heat of the sun during this long period of time.

And also, if the night lasted a hundred or two hundred hours, the animals would remain motionless for a long time and would not be able to earn their sustenance, and they would perish from hunger; and the heat of the plants would decrease, and they would rot and stink. Just as some plants rot if they grow in a place where the sun does not shine on them.

The Cold And The Heat

And take a lesson from the cold and heat that enter this world one after another and occupy it in abundance, deficiency, and moderation so that the four seasons come together in each year and the aforementioned benefits and others are achieved. Likewise, these cold and heat tan the bodies and bring them to

perfection. If both of them did not enter the bodies of humans and animals, the bodies would certainly become corrupt and waste.

Think about the benefit of gradually going from cold to heat and vice versa; because cold gradually decreases until heat reaches its peak, and heat gradually decreases until cold reaches its peak. If one suddenly goes from cold to heat all at once, it will certainly harm the body and cause chronic diseases. For example, if someone goes from a very hot bath to cold air, it will cause great harm to him and often causes him to fall ill.

Therefore, God Almighty has ordained this gradual change in cold and heat for the benefit of His humble servants, and this is a proof of the existence of the All-Wise and All-Powerful.

If someone says that this gradualness is due to the sun's specific movement in becoming lower and higher, I ask what is the reason for this movement of the sun?

If they say that the cause is the path that the sun follows with its specific motion, I will ask about its cause again, until I conclude that it is due to the wisdom of the Almighty Creator, and His intention and planning.

And know that if there were no heat, the bitter, hard fruits would not have ripened and become sweet, so that people could benefit from them, both fresh and dried. And if there were no cold, crops would not have remained underground long enough to produce enough to provide food for humans and animals, and seeds would not have come up in abundance to cultivate again.

So don't you see what benefits are in each of the cold and heat, and each one, with its great benefits, yet stings the bodies and people are affected by it, and that also brings good to both religion and the world of people.

The Wind And The Air

I remind you, O Mofazzal, of the benefits that are in the wind. Don't you see that if the wind does not blow for a while, it causes diseases, makes the breaths suffocate, makes the sick melt, makes fruits rot, makes vegetables and fruits stink, causes plague and cholera in the bodies, and causes pests in the grains?

So it became clear that the blowing of the wind is due to the good planning of the Creator of the people.

And I inform you of the wisdom of the air. Indeed, sound is a result of the friction of objects in the air. The air conveys it to the hearing. People talk all day and some of the night, mostly about their needs and transactions. If this speech remained in the air as it remained on paper, the world would certainly be filled with sound and people would have difficulty, and they would have needed to refresh the air. Just as the paper on which it was written was used up, they would have had to acquire other paper, and more of it would have been needed, because people do not write as much as they speak.

So the wise Creator, the Exalted, turned this air into a thin, hidden paper that carries words as needed, and then the trace of the words disappears from it, leaving it clear and blank for other words, and it does not become old or wasted.

And this breeze, which is called air, is enough for your lesson, if you reflect on its benefits. Indeed, the life of bodies is in it, that from within the body, its inhalation is the cause of life, and from without, its proximity brings the body to health, and it brings sounds from far away and moves pleasant smells from one place to another.

Don't you see that from wherever the wind comes, the pleasant smell and sound reach more from that side? And the receptor of the cold and heat, each of which is beneficial to the world, is the air.

In addition, the wind fans the bodies, causes the clouds to move, carries them from one place to another, clings them to each other until they thicken, and thus rain begins. Then, after rain, the wind breaks up the clouds.

Moreover, the wind makes the trees fertile, makes the ships sail, makes food and fruits soft, cools the waters, lights the fire, and dries wet things like clothes and the like.

In short, life is all about the wind, and if there were no wind, plants would wither, animals would die, and things would become hot and rotten.

The Four Elements

Think, O Mofazzal, about the four elements, each of which God Almighty created according to the needs of people.

The Earth

Among them is the earth, which He made vast to accommodate the dwellings, pastures, and fields of the children of Adam, and to be the source of wood and timber for them. And great medicines, drugs, and beneficial minerals are also produced from the earth.

And sometimes an ignorant person may say, "What benefit is there in empty deserts and vast plains?" Indeed, these are the habitats of wild animals and their dwellings. In addition, people can inhabit these deserts and plains and replace them with their villages and homelands if they wish.

Many lands that were once deserts have later become orchards, and people have moved there and made their homelands. And if it were not for this vastness of land, people would be like a group

confined in a tight enclosure, unable to leave and unable to change places.

And again, since the Almighty, the Wise, has made this earth a place for humans and animals to live, He has made it stable so that it is possible for people to walk on it for their work, sit down to rest, and sleep comfortably, and to carry out their actions well and firmly. If the earth were constantly moving and shaking beneath them, they would not be able to carry out buildings, industries, trades, and the like, but rather life would not be pleasing to them.

For this situation, take a lesson, O Mofazzal, from what happens to people during an earthquake. Although it lasts for a short time, they leave their homes and flee. If someone asks, then why do earthquakes sometimes occur, we will answer that earthquakes and the like are a warning and intimidation by which God frightens people so that they turn away from sin. Likewise, whatever afflictions come upon them in their bodies and their wealth are for their good and steadfastness in this world. If they are good, He will give them something in return for what has passed away from them in the Hereafter, which nothing in the affairs of this world can compare to; and if it is in his and other people's good to give him that compensation in this world, He will give it.

And among the wisdoms is that He created the earth cold and dry by nature, and stone is also cold and dry, and the difference between them is that stone is drier. If the other parts of the earth were to be dry at this level, they would all be hard stone, and plants that sustain animals would not grow, and plowing, building, and any other necessary work would not be possible. So He made it less dry than stone and made it soft and gentle so that necessary work could be done easily on it.

And among the plans of the wise God, the Exalted, in the creation of the ground is that one side is higher than the other, and He made it so that water flows over the earth, so that it can be irrigated and used for the development of the earth, and what comes in excess flows into the sea. So, just as someone makes one side of a surface higher and the other side lower so that water flows over it, God Almighty has also made one side higher than the other for the same reason. And if this were not the case, the water would have stood on the ground, preventing people from doing their work and blocking the roads.

The Water

And if this abundance of water were not in the earth's streams and rivers, people would be in trouble, because they need water to drink themselves, to water their livestock and animals, to water their crops, trees, and all kinds of grains, and to provide water for wild animals, birds, and predators, and for the survival of fish and aquatic animals. There are other benefits in it that you know, and many of its benefits you do not know, because apart from the obvious benefit that everyone knows that all life on earth, such as animals and plants, depends on it, there are other benefits as well.

For example, when mixed with a drink, it becomes soft and pleasant to drink, and with it they cleanse their bodies and clothes from dirt, and with it they turn soil into mud for buildings, and with it they ward off the harm of a burning fire, and baths are made with it, which refreshes people after fatigue and weariness.

There are other benefits in water that become apparent in times of need, and if you doubt the benefits of these many waters that sit on top of each other in the seas and think that they are not of much benefit, then know that it is the home, refuge, and place of life for the guilds of fish and animals of the sea, and it is a mine of pearls,

corals, rubies, and amber, and many spices and jewels are extracted from the sea, and on the shores of the seas, all kinds of fragrant plants, medicines, and spices are cultivated.

And the sea is also a means of transport for commercial goods that are brought from distant countries, such as those carried from China to Iraq, from Basra to Kufa, and from India to other countries. If there were no means of transport for this trade other than cattle, many grains, medicines, spices, and other goods would remain in their countries and spoil, and no one would benefit from them. Because the cost of transporting them would not be paid for, and this would cause two problems.

First, many things would become scarce in most countries, despite the fact that people need them, and second, the livelihoods of merchants who transport these goods and make a living from their trade would get disrupted.

The Air

As for the vastness of the air, then the wisdom behind it is that if it were not for this vastness, people would surely suffocate from the abundance of smoke and fumes that would accumulate in the air. Likewise, it would not have the capacity for clouds, mist, and other atmospheric entities to meet. The benefits of these were mentioned before.

The Fire

And so is fire. If it were spread in the air like the breeze and water, it would certainly burn the world. And since people are constantly in need of it and most of their needs depend on it, it seems that it has been stored in stone, iron, and wood, because it has placed the potential for its existence in them, so that people can

obtain it whenever they want and maintain it with wicks, oil, and firewood as long as they need to maintain it.

So if people had to keep the fire constantly with a wick and oil, or with firewood and a covering, it would be difficult for people, and if it were to spread like air and water, it would burn the world. So He has destined it in such a way that they would benefit from its benefits and be safe from its harm.

And again, He has made the acquisition of fire exclusive to humans, due to the great need they have in it for their livelihood. As for cattle and other animals, they do not enjoy fire and do not use it for their own purposes. And since God Almighty has ordained it this way, He has given humans palms and fingers to acquire fire and use it, and He has not given these to animals, but He has helped them to endure hardships and cold, so that what happens to humans does not happen to them due to not finding fire.

And I will inform you of the benefits of fire with a small thing whose benefit is great, and that is the lamp that people light and use at night for their needs. If it were not for this, people would be like the dead in their graves at night and would not be able to write, sew, or weave during the dark night. And how could someone who is afflicted with pain seek relief at night when he needs some ointment or other medicine?

And the benefits of fire in cooking food, warming bodies, and drying clothes are too numerous to be enumerated and too obvious to need explanation. Rather, these benefits are brighter than fire.

The Cloudy And The Clear Sky

Think, O Mofazzal, about the benefits of cloudy and clear sky. The sky is sometimes cloudy and is sometimes clear, and both are necessary for the benefit of man. If one of these were permanent, his livelihood would be disrupted.

Because if it rained constantly, the fruits and vegetables would rot, the animals would become weak, the air would become cold, all kinds of diseases would occur among the people, and the people's paths would be blocked.

And if the weather were constantly clear and it did not rain, the earth would dry up, the plants would wither, and the water in the springs and rivers would dry up. This would cause great harm to people, and dryness would prevail in the air, and the harm of various diseases, such as constipation, would occur in people. And since it is sometimes one way and sometimes the other, the weather would become moderate, and each would repel the harm of the other, and all things would be in order.

And if someone asks why these were not created in a way that would not cause harm, we will answer that it is good for a person to experience some hardships and pains in this world so that he may abandon sin. Just as when a person's body is afflicted with an illness, he needs bitter and unpleasant medicines to restore his nature and remove the corruption that has accumulated in his disposition, and likewise when his soul is afflicted with rebellion, he needs some things that are painful so that he can deal with the pain and heal himself, and so that he avoids corruption, and turns to things that will bring good to this world and his hereafter.

The Rain

O Mofazzal, if a king distributes several thousand dirhams and dinars to his subjects, he will certainly appear great in the eyes of the people, and the fame of his generosity will reach the ends of the earth. But what is the value of this gift compared to a single rain? Because with that rain, cities become prosperous, and crops grow in different regions of the earth, so this rain is many times more valuable than gold and silver.

Do you not see how great is the value of a single rain and how valuable is the growth that it brings to the grain? But dirhams and dinars seem great to people, and they are heedless of rain and other great blessings like it; and if someone has a small request from God or a desire in this world and it is delayed, he becomes upset and forgets all of these great blessings of God, not knowing that it is not for his good, and that by achieving this petty pleasure, he loses out on significant benefits, and this immediate benefit causes him to grieve in the long run.

Consider the nature of falling of the rain on the earth. God, the Almighty and the All-Knowing, has rightly decreed that it should fall from a height to cover all the low and high places of the earth and irrigate everything, because if it did not rain from above and came from another direction, it would certainly not irrigate the mountains, hills, and elevated places, and the crops of the earth would be reduced.

Don't you see that agriculture that is done with running water is less than agriculture that is done with rain? And since rain covers every mountain, plain, and valley, rain-fed agriculture is done in the plains, on the slopes of mountains, and on the tops of hills, and it grows greatly, and in many countries, the hardship of carrying water from one place to another has been removed from the people, and the conflict that exists among people regarding irrigation canals does not exist among them, and the oppression that the masters of canals and the powerful farmers do, who seize the waters and deprive the weak farmers, does not exist in those countries.

And since He decreed that the rain would come down, He decreed that it would fall drop by drop to sink to the bottom of the earth and irrigate the interior of the earth, and if it fell all at once,

it would flow on the earth and not sink to the depths of the earth, and also break the crops and trees.

And there are many other benefits in the rain because it softens the bodies and clears the air from turbidity, and removes cholera that occur due to the corruption of the air, and removes the pest, which is called "Mildew", that occurs in the leaves of trees and crops, and the likes of these benefits are many.

If someone were to ask, "Isn't it possible that in some years it causes great harm due to its severity, or the cold destroys crops and produces fumes in the air, leading to many illnesses and crop damage?" the answer would be, "Yes." This excess may be due to the benefit it brings to men, restraining them from committing sins and persisting in them. Thus, the benefit to their faith outweighs any potential financial loss.

The Mountains

Look, O Mofazzal, at these mountains piled high of clay and stones, which the heedless may consider a mere excess, not a necessity, yet they contain many benefits. Among them is that snow falls upon them for those who need it, and what melts of it flows forth abundant springs from which great rivers gather, and various kinds of plants and medicines grow there that do not grow in the plain, and there are caves and dens in it for wild beasts, and strong fortresses and castles are built from them to protect against enemies, and stones are quarried from them for building and mills, and there are minerals for various kinds of gems, and there are other benefits in them that only He who ordained them in His prior knowledge knows.

The Mines And The Other Treasures

Consider, O Mofazzal, the mines and the various precious stones that are extracted from them, such as lime, gypsum, arsenic, copper, lead, silver, gold, peridot, ruby, emerald, and various stones. Also, consider the bitumen, wax, sulfur, oil, and other substances that people use for their needs. Is it not obvious to any reasonable person that all of these are treasures stored up for men in this earth, to be extracted and used when needed?

However, despite their diligence and effort, people's attempts to manufacture these metals fell short of their potential. For if they had succeeded in acquiring this knowledge, it would undoubtedly have spread throughout the world, causing silver and gold to become so abundant that they would lose their value and become unusable in buying, selling, and transactions. The authorities would no longer be able to collect taxes, nor would anyone be able to save them for their descendants.

Yet, people were given the ability to produce alum from copper, glass from sand, silver from lead, gold from silver, and similar things that are harmless. Observe how men are readily given what was harmless but prohibited from what would have been harmful had they acquired it.

Those who delve deeply into the mines eventually reach a vast valley with continuous flowing water, the depths of which are unreachable and impossible to cross. Beyond this valley lie mountains of silver.

Think about this plan of God, the Wise, the Mighty, who wanted to show His servants the full power and extent of His treasures so that they would know that if He wanted, He could have created mountains of silver for them on earth, but because their good was not in it, and this substance would become worthless and their

benefits would be hindered, He did not give it to them and forbade it from them.

Think about this, that whenever there is a dish or garment or a piece of furniture that is strange or rare, its price is high and people demand it, but when it becomes abundant among people, the price becomes low and the demand for it and its value decreases.

The Plants

Think, O Mofazzal, about plants and the various benefits that the Giver of Life and the Creator of the earth and the heavens has ordained in them. So He created fruits for eating, firewood as fuel, wood for all kinds of carpentry, and the bark of trees, leaves, roots, stems, and gum for all kinds of benefits.

If the fruits that we eat were produced for us on the earth without trees and were not on the branches of trees, there would certainly be a great disruption in our livelihood, even though we would benefit from the fruits. Because the benefits of wood, firewood, grass, straw, and other things would be lost to us, and these are great benefits.

Furthermore, the pleasure that people derive from seeing green plants, lush trees, colorful flowers, and various blooms can't be matched by any other pleasure.

The Profit Of Agriculture

Think, O Mofazzal, about this interest that God has ordained in agriculture, that from one seed a hundred seeds, more or less, may come forth. It would be possible that for every seed sown, one seed may come forth, and if that were the case, there would be no benefit to it. For it is necessary that both the seed for the next year and the food of the farmers for the next year be produced. Do you

not see that when a king wants to develop a city, the way to do so is to give them seeds?

So consider that what the wise have thought of, before their understanding could think of, was put into practice in the creation of the All-Wise God. So He has granted to agriculture such a quantity of profit that it will produce both seed for their sowing for the next year and food for the farmers until the following year.

Similarly, trees, plants, and palm trees produce abundant yields. You see a single plant body surrounded by numerous offshoots, and this is only so that people may cut down some of it and use it for their needs, and some of it may be returned and planted in the ground. If there was only the main plant body, neither branching out nor producing yields, nothing could be cut down from it for work or planting. Then, if it were afflicted by a blight and the main plant were damaged, there would be no replacement.

The Seeds Which Grow In A Container

Consider the growth of some seeds, such as lentils, mung beans, broad beans, and the like, which grow in a container, like bags. Those bags protect them from harm until they become strong, just as God Almighty placed the child in the middle of the placenta, so that it would be protected from harm in the womb.

The Wheat And Its Like

As for wheat and its like, God created it in a hard husk and placed things like spears on it, so that birds can't steal it and harm the crops. If someone says that birds sometimes steal the seeds, we answer that yes, God, the Wise and Knowing, has ordained it this way, because the bird is also a creature of God's creation and seeks sustenance, and God has ordained for it a share of what grows from the earth. However, He has ordained these veils and spears

for the seeds so that the birds do not cause much harm, and no great loss arises from them.

Because if the birds found seeds without hindrance or disturbance, they would waste them all and they themselves would die from eating too much and the farmers would return empty-handed. Therefore, God Almighty has ordained these events so that the seeds are protected and a little of it is eaten by the birds after they grow and the majority is left for the people. Because the people are more entitled to it and have worked hard and suffered until the seeds grew, and also their needs are greater than the needs of the birds.

The Root

Consider the wisdom of God Almighty in creating trees and all kinds of plants, because since they are constantly in need of food like animals, but they do not have mouths like animals and can't move like animals, they extract their food from the earth and deliver it to the branches, leaves and fruits. Therefore, the earth is like a nurturing mother, and the roots are like the mouths of babies who take the breast in their mouths and suck milk.

Don't you see how the tent poles are pulled with ropes from all sides so that they stand upright and do not fall or lean in any direction? Also, trees and other plants have roots in the ground that extend underground from all sides to keep them from falling and leaning. If there were no roots, how would huge tall trees like palm trees, poplars, and plane trees stand upright and not fall from strong winds?

So look at the wisdom of the All-Wise God, how He decreed according to it before humans could devise their own crafts. Rather, they took the construction of the tent and the like from the creation of the tree and the like, because creation precedes craft.

The Leaf

O Mofazzal, think about the creation of the leaf, in which, like the veins of the body, veins extend from all sides in each leaf, some are thick and large, extending throughout the length and breadth of the leaf, and some are thin, woven between the larger veins and connected to each other.

If the people made them by hand, as is the case with human craftsmanship, they would not have been able to finish making a single leaf in a year, and they would have needed many tools, countless movements, conversations, and consultations.

In a short time in the spring, the Almighty, the All-Seeing, the All-Hearing, has made so many beautiful flowers, beautiful leaves, plants, trees, herbs, basil, blossoms, and poppies appear that the desert, the mountain, and the plain are filled with their abundance. They are created without movement or speech, by the perfect power of the All-Wise, the Almighty, and by the command of the Creator of the earth and the universe.

So know the reason for the existence of those tiny veins that are spread all over the leaf. They exist so that water and food can flow through them to all parts of the leaf. And in the strong veins there is another wisdom that, by their strength and stability, they hold the leaf so that it does not tear or wither. So the leaf is like artificial leaves that are made by industry from cloth and in the middle of which sticks are inserted lengthwise and widthwise to hold it and not fall apart. So industry speaks of Creation, but it can never reach its perfection.

The Seeds And The Kernels Of Fruits

Think about the seeds and kernels of fruits. One wisdom in them is that they are the successors of the tree, so that if the tree is damaged, people could plant another tree so that it can grow again.

Just as they store precious things in two places so that if one is damaged, the other remains. And another wisdom is that with its hardness, it holds the fruits that are soft and tender, and if it were not for it, the tender fruit would fall apart and become rotten. And also, people eat some seeds and extract oil from some other seeds, and they use them in many applications.

The Fruits

And since now you know the benefits of fruit seeds, now think about what is above the seeds of the dates and grapes. It is the fruit that brings the ultimate pleasure and sweetness.

If it were like the fruit of the cypress and plane tree, the pleasures that humans derive from these fruits would be lost. Therefore, God, the Wise and Knowing, has ordained these delicious flavors in fruits for human enjoyment and pleasure.

The Trees

Think about the various plans of the All-Knowing, All-Powerful God in the various trees. Indeed, a tree dies once a year, and the heat is trapped and hidden within it, and the substances of fruits are born in it. Then in the spring, it comes to life and becomes active, and it makes available to you all kinds of fruits, and each fruit in its proper season. Just as at banquets, they brought you delicate and delicious food at every moment.

When you reflect carefully, trees laden with all kinds of delicious fruits have reached out to you, and in the courtyard of the garden they hold flower branches, bunches of basil, and jasmine and narcissus flowers, which you may pick as you wish.

If you are wise, why don't you know your host? And if you are intelligent, why don't you understand the meaning of these favors and be grateful to your Lord?

He has prepared for you all these foods and crops, and all kinds of colorful fruits and abundant food in the gardens, orchards and mountains, and yet you deny His favor and disobey His command, and instead of gratitude, you offer ungratefulness and instead of blessings, you offer disobedience.

The Pomegranate

Learn a lesson from the creation of the pomegranate and what is revealed in it, from the effects of the power of the Most Gracious and Forgiving God.

Indeed, He has arranged things like hills in the middle of it, and on all those hills He has placed its seeds and glued them together. You would think that they were arranged by hand; and He divided the seeds into several parts and wrapped each part in a wrapper, and He woven that wrapper with such delicacy that the mind is amazed.

So the noble plan in this delicate creation is that if the pomegranate were all seeds, there would be no way for food to reach the seeds. So He placed this fat-like thing in the middle and made the bottom of the seeds in it so that food could reach each seed through that path. And He stretched those wrappers over the delicate seeds to protect them from being wasted, and He stretched a strong skin over all of them, so that they, with their delicacy and freshness, would be protected from the harms of cold, heat, and other things.

What I have said is a little out of much in the wisdom of the creation of pomegranates, and there is much more than this for someone who wants to talk for a long time. But what we have said is enough to learn a lesson.

The Heavy Fruits

Think, O Mofazzal, about the pumpkin, melon, watermelon, cucumber, and the like. Since God, the Creator, the Wise, has decreed that heavy fruits should come from these, He has made them spread out on the earth. If they stood upright like other crops and trees, they would not be able to bear these heavy fruits, and they would break before the fruit reaches maturity.

Consider how He has ordained that it should spread out over the earth, that it may lay its fruits upon the earth, and that the earth may bear its fruits. You see a gourd or melon lying on the earth, with its fruits gathered around it, and they are sucking milk.

Then consider the time when fruits ripen, right at the time when the weather is hot and people are most eager for them. If they ripened in the winter, people would certainly eat them unwillingly, or it would harm their bodies. Don't you see that a type of cucumber ripens in the winter and people refuse to eat it, except for someone who is voracious and does not care about eating something that will harm him and does not consider the consequences of things?

The Palm Tree

Think, O Mofazzal, about the palm tree. As its female needs a male to impregnate her, He created a male for her, just as men impregnating women.

Consider the creation of the palm tree, how it is woven from fibers, like a garment woven by hand, so that it is strong and sturdy, so that it does not break from the weight of the clusters, and so that it does not get damaged by strong winds and it can be used to build roofs, bridges, and other things.

The Wood

And also the other woods that you see are woven and their parts are inserted into each other lengthwise and widthwise, like the interweaving of fabric fibers, and yet they have a strength and softness that can be used to make tools, instruments, doors, and windows, because if they were as solid and heavy as stone, they could not be used for roofs.

And one of the great advantages of wood and planks is that they float on water. By using this property of wood, ships are made that can carry heavy loads like mountains and transport them from city to city with the utmost ease and comfort. If it were not for this, people would find it difficult to transport many goods, which are either impossible or very difficult to transport without ships.

The Herbal Medicines

Consider the herbal medicines and spices, each of which was created by the All-Wise, All-Knowing God for a purpose and endowed with a specific property. One penetrates the veins, depths, and joints of the body and draws out and expels phlegmy substances, while the other dissolves pus and the like.

Who has placed these qualities and powers in them other than He who created them for the benefit of His servants? And who has informed people that these benefits are in them other than He who has placed these benefits in them?

The Inspiration Of Their Creator

And could it be that people have come to know about these glorious benefits by chance? And if we accept that man has come to know about these properties through reason and experience, how did livestock and animals come to know about them without the inspiration of their Creator? For example, some predators treat

their wounds with certain medicines and recover, and if some birds are constipated, they drink sea water, and it relieves their constipation, and there are many such examples.

The Abundant Plant In The Plain

And you should not doubt the benefits of this abundant plant that grows in the plain, in a seemingly uninhabited place, and think that it is an excess and not needed. And it is not so, rather it is food for wild animals, and its seeds are fodder for birds, and its wood and branches are firewood for travelers and citizens, and many of them are medicines for diseases of the body, and some are used to tan skins and some are used to dye goods.

The Humble Plant

There are many benefits like these. Don't you know that papyrus, and some plants similar to it, is one of the most humble and insignificant plants, and yet, it has all kinds of benefits, such as making paper from it, which kings and their subjects need, and making mats from it, which people use in every industry, and making covers to protect glassware and other things, and filling the middle of the containers that are placed in chests so that they don't break, and similar benefits are many.

So take a lesson from what you observe of the various benefits in everything created, from the small to the great, and from what has value and what has seemingly no value.

The Human And Animal Wastes

And there is nothing more base and despicable than human excrement and animal dung. However, its benefits for crops, legumes, vegetables, and fruits are such that nothing else can compare to it, to the point that no vegetable grows well except on

dung and excrement, which everyone considers dirty and filthy and does not go near.

Two Prices And Two Markets

And know that the status and benefit of everything is not equal to its price, but in fact, there are two prices and two markets. One is the market of business and commerce, the other is the market of knowledge and understanding. So it is probable that there is something that has a low price, but in terms of knowledge, understanding, reasoning, and learning, it is not considered insignificant. If alchemists knew what benefit human and animal waste has, they would certainly buy it, at the most expensive prices.

Mofazzal said that when the conversation reached this point, it was late and my master stood up for prayer and said, "Return to me tomorrow morning, God willing." I returned to my home with great joy and delight at what my master had given me from the treasures of knowledge and understanding, and I thanked the true Benefactor for this blessing and spent the night with joy, hoping for the promise of morning.

The Fourth Day: The Disasters

Mofazzal said that it was the fourth day. In the morning, I rushed to meet my master, and when I was allowed to enter and sit, I respectfully sat next to the great Imam.

Then he said: It is for us to praise and glorify the Name that is the oldest of all names and the Light that is the greatest of all lights, namely, Allah, the All-Knowing, the Owner of glory and honor, the Originator of names, the Destroyer of worlds and times, the Owner of hidden secrets and the knowledge of the unseen, which is hidden from others, and whose names are stored up with praise, and whose knowledge is hidden from others.

And prayers and blessings without end be upon the one who conveys the revelation and fulfills the message with which God has sent him, the one who is the conveyor of good news of reward, and the one who warns of punishment, and the one who invites to God with His help, the shining lamp of the path of guidance, so that whoever goes astray, after love has been perfected upon him, will be destroyed, and whoever comes alive with faith and guidance will reach the heights of knowledge through evidence and proof. And peace be upon his unparalleled family, prayers of goodness and purity, greetings of praise, peace and mercy, and blessings for ever and ever. And they are the ones who deserve every greeting and honor.

I have explained to you, O Mofazzal, the evidences; I have told you about the existence, knowledge, and wisdom of the Creator of things, and the evidences of the planning of God, the Almighty, in the creation of man, animals, trees, plants, and others, so much so that every wise person may learn a lesson.

The Wisdom Behind The Disasters And Calamities

And now I will explain to you the disasters that occur at certain times, and which a group of ignorant people have used as a means to deny creation and the Creator's plan.

And I will explain what the atheists who do not believe in a creator, and the followers of Mani, who believe in two gods, deny and consider their occurrence in this world to be contrary to wisdom, such as unpleasant events, suffering, calamities, death and so on. And I will also explain what the naturalists claim that things come and go naturally without a planner or creator. I speak about these matters so that it will be easy for you to refute their statements.

A group of ignorant people and atheists – May God kill them, how they are deceived – have used the harms that occur at certain times, such as plague, cholera, jaundice, and various diseases, as well as hail and grasshoppers that destroy crops and fruits, as a means to deny creation and planning, and have doubted the existence of the Almighty Creator.

So we answer them that if there were no Creator and Planner in the world, there would have to be much more corruption, harm, and accidents in the world, such as the sky falling to the earth, or the earth sinking into the water, or the sun refusing to rise and never rising again, or rivers and springs drying up so that not a single drop of water reaches them, or the air becoming so thick that

no wind moves at all, so that all things would be corrupted, or the sea water flowing to the earth and drowning the world.

And also, why do these harms that sometimes come from plagues, grasshoppers, and the like not become permanent and prolonged, so as to render everything in the world hopeless? Rather, they arise sometimes and are quickly resolved, and don't you see that the world is protected and immune from these terrible events that cause the destruction of its inhabitants?

And sometimes God frightens them with a small harm so that its occurrence may be a lesson and warning for them.

And indeed, the polytheists and followers of Mani deny the wisdom behind the calamities that befall people, and say that if there is a merciful and compassionate Creator for this world, why do these unpleasant things happen in the world?

And the speaker of this statement believes that a person's life in this world should be pure and clean from all unpleasant things and not mixed with any pain. If this were the case, there would be so much rebellion and corruption in man that he would be of no use for this world or the hereafter.

Just as you see a group that has been blessed with luxury and prosperity and has flourished in security, wealth, and comfort, reaching a level of rebellion and disbelief that seems to have forgotten that they are human beings or that they are creatures subject to fate and destiny, or that it is possible for harm to befall them, or that something unpleasant will befall them; and it does not occur to them to have mercy on the weak, or to help the poor, or to have compassion on someone who is sick, or to show kindness to the needy, or to show compassion for those in distress.

But when an unpleasant incident befell them and they realized the severity of a calamity or pain, they will become receptive to

advice, and many of them who were ignorant and heedless came to understand, and most of the sins and corruptions they had committed would be corrected or avoided by them.

And the group that dislikes these harmful things in the world are like children who detest bitter and unpleasant medicines, and become angry when they are forbidden from delicious foods that harm them, and they hate acquiring manners, knowledge, and crafts, and they love to spend their time constantly in amusement and idleness, and to eat whatever food and drink they want.

And they do not understand what harm growing up in idleness causes to their religion and world, and what pains delicious and harmful foods and drinks cause in their bodies, and they do not understand that in acquiring good manners there are blessed consequences, and in drinking bitter medicines there is healing, and that there are many pains that are followed by comforts, and many bitternesses that are followed by sweetness.

Why Are Not All Men Created Infallible?

And if someone asks why He did not create all men infallible, so that they would not be capable of sin and evil, so that they would not need to be punished with these pains, we answer that if they were like that, they would not be worthy of reward for good deeds.

If they say that if God grants him the blessings of Paradise, what harm will it do him if he does not deserve the reward and is not praised for his good deeds? We would answer that you ask a man whose body and mind are sound, who sits in comfort and prosperity and someone else provides him with the means of life without any effort or action. Would he accept this and be content with that lowly state?

And if his mind is sound, he will certainly be more satisfied with a small blessing that he obtains through effort than with a great

blessing that he obtains without effort and merit. Likewise, the blessings of the Hereafter is complete for the people who have strived for it and have earned it.

So, in this regard, the blessing has been doubled for a person, who has been given the strength to strive in this world, and has been given the means to attain the ranks of the Hereafter, and has been granted a great reward for his actions and efforts. Therefore, his joy and pleasure in the Hereafter are doubled for this reason.

Another Question

If they say that since you said that infallibility contradicts merit, it was possible to impose obligations on people without infallibility and take them to Paradise anyway. Whoever wants to receive the blessings of the hereafter by merit should obey, and whoever does not want to and is content with the blessings of Paradise without effort should receive the reward without action.

We answer that if this way were opened to people to receive reward despite their sins and not fear punishment, most people would certainly try so hard to commit immorality and sin that corruption would spread on earth, they would kill each other, commit injustice and tyranny, and the justice and wisdom of God Almighty would be nullified and prudence would be transformed into moderation. The corruption of this method is very clear and obvious.

Calamities That Befall Both The Good And The Evil-Doers

And sometimes, in order to invalidate the plan and deny the All-Knowing Creator, these atheists cite the example of calamities that occur among people and engulf both the good and the evil-doer, while the evil-doer is saved. They ask, is it permissible in the plan

of the Wise that the good and the evil be equally afflicted, or that the evil-doer be better off than the good?

We answer that although these harms and calamities befall both the righteous and the wicked, God Almighty has intended the goodness for both classes in this. But the righteous, because of the calamity, remembers the blessings of God Almighty that He has bestowed upon him in his health, and this causes him to be grateful and patient. But as for the wicked, when these calamities befall him, His rebellion diminishes and prevents him from committing sins and immoralities.

And if they are saved from that calamity, it will benefit both groups again, because the righteous person increases in goodness and righteousness and his insight increases, and the wicked person recognizes the mercy, the compassion, and the kindness of God, and this encourages him to be good and forgive those who do him harm.

What About What People Suffer From In Their Bodies?

And perhaps someone will say that what you said is about the loss of property, so what do you say about what people suffer from in their bodies and causes their loss, such as burning, drowning in floods, and dying in earthquakes?

We answer that in them too, the interests of the two classes have been observed. As for the righteous, they find relief from the ills of this world when they depart, but for the wicked, some of their sins are atoned for and they are prevented from increasing their sins.

In short, the Creator, the All-Forgiving, the All-Knowing, the All-Merciful, the All-Able, performs each of these for the benefit of His servants, and He makes what appears to be evil into something good.

An Analogy

Just as if the wind were to topple a huge tree, and a wise maker were to use it for great benefits, such as doors, windows, columns, and so on, then the loss would be turned into gain, so too, God, the All-Mighty, the All-Wise, turns all the harm that is inflicted on bodies and property into good and benefit.

Another Question

If someone asks, what would be the harm if these corruptions did not occur in the body and property? We answer that if these did not occur, people would tend towards sin and wickedness due to the continuation of health, prosperity, and blessings, they would exaggerate in committing sins, and they would weaken in obedience and worship.

And the majority of the people are in such a state that if they are in comfort and abundance of blessings, the state of rebellion and disobedience will befall them; and these unfortunate events that befall them will frighten them, prevent them from disobeying, and warn them to incline towards something that will lead to their growth and good.

And if these things do not happen to them, they will certainly go beyond the limits in rebellion and sin, as they rebelled in the past, until it became necessary for them to be destroyed by the flood and for the earth to be cleansed of them.

The Wisdom Behind Death

And among the things that atheists deny in this world is death and destruction, and their opinion is that it would be better if people were to remain in this world forever and not die or be afflicted by calamities.

And when you look at the end of this matter, you know that it is a mistake, because if everyone who has entered the world and will be there stays and does not leave, the earth would certainly become overpopulated and homes, fields, and food would become scarce.

Now that death is destroying them, they quarrel over houses and fields, and wars are raging among them and blood is shed. If they had been born and not died, what would have happened to them? Of course, evil, greed, cruelty, and hardness of heart would have prevailed over them. And if they did not fear death and had the hope of eternal life, they would not be satisfied with anything in the world, and they would never forget and be consoled, because the memory of death brings consolation for troubles and hardships; and they would be bored with life and other worldly affairs, just as you see that a group whose life span is long becomes bored with life and wishes for death to relieve them of the hardships of the world.

If they say that boredom with life is due to the ills and troubles of the world, if the troubles and sorrows were removed from them, they would not wish for death, the answer is what we said before, that if they were like that, they would have become so rebellious that it would have harmed their and others' religion and the world.

Other Questions

And if they say that there should be no births and reproduction among them so that they do not suffer from the lack of homes and livelihoods, we answer that in this case, most of the people would be deprived of the blessing of life and the enjoyment of worldly and otherworldly blessings, good things and blessings, and all blessings would be reserved for a small group who first entered the abode of non-existence into the abode of existence. And God's blessing

should encompass the entire universe and each of the possible beings should benefit according to their ability and potential.

If they say that He should have created all men in the beginning who would exist until the end of the world and kept everyone alive in the world until the Day of Judgment, we would answer that the same problem of shortage of housing and livelihood would have arisen. And also, if there were no birth and reproduction, the closeness of relatives to each other and their helping each other in times of hardship would have been eliminated, and the pleasure of raising children and being happy with their existence would not have existed, and the respect for the rights of parents and relatives and the rewards that were given to people for this, would have been lost.

So what we have said is proof that whatever passes through the minds of people, from possibilities, other than what the Creator of the earth and the heavens has decreed, is all nonsense and pure error.

Why Will Not Whoever Commits Sin Be Punished Soon?

And perhaps someone will criticize the planning of the All-Knowing, the All-Aware, from another perspective, and say how can the system of this world be planned when we see that religion and the world are based on oppression and corruption, and the strong oppress the weak and usurp their wealth, and the weak are trampled upon by the strong, and the righteous are poor and afflicted, and the wicked are blessed with well-being and blessings, and whoever commits immorality and sin will not be punished soon. If there were planning in the world, the righteous should find abundant sustenance and the wicked should be deprived, and the strong should not be able to oppress their subordinates, and

whoever commits a sin should soon receive its punishment so that he should quickly repent and become a lesson for others.

The answer is that if this were the case, the superiority that men have over other animals, that is, they perform actions out of their own free will to seek the approval of the Most Gracious and Forgiving God, and the belief in the rewards of the Hereafter, by which they obey commands and abandon prohibitions, would be eliminated. People would be like cattle, who are made to work hour after hour by threatening them with sticks and whips and tempting them with grass and grain. No one would work out of certainty and belief in reward in the Hereafter. Therefore, they would go beyond the limits of humanity and become like animals and cattle. Their actions would be focused on immediate gain and loss, and they would be oblivious to the reward of the Hereafter.

And the righteous would not do good deeds except for the sake of expanding their livelihood and the worldly life, and no one would abandon oppression, immorality, and sin except for fear of the punishment that would befall him at that very hour, until all the acts of obedience of the servants of God were directed towards the present matter, and not because of certainty about the Hereafter, and they would not be deserving of the reward of the Hereafter and the permanent blessings of the Day of Judgment.

Furthermore, the things that those critics mentioned about poverty, wealth, prosperity, and calamity are not always happening contrary to what they say, but sometimes things happen in accordance with their assumption, as you see that many of the righteous have abundant wealth and live in comfort, so that people do not think that the wicked are always in bliss and the righteous are constantly in hardship and this causes people to prefer wickedness over righteousness. And many of the wicked, when

their wickedness reaches its limit and their harm to people and themselves becomes great, are subjected to great punishments in this world, just as the Almighty God drowned Pharaoh and his companions. And if the punishment of some of the wicked and the reward of some of the righteous are delayed until the Hereafter for many benefits, this does not invalidate the plan of the Almighty God.

An Analogy

Because there are times when some kings of the earth delay revenge on some disobedient people and reward a group of obedient people for some reason, and this is not contrary to their plan, rather wise people consider this to be one of their good plans.

The General Rule

And whenever conclusive proofs and certain evidence indicate that there is a wise, powerful Creator, they should attribute what they see to His design, because the Creator does not neglect or waste His creation except for one of these three reasons: first, because He is incapable, second, because He is ignorant of the quality of design, and third, because His evil prevents Him from delivering good and benefit to His servants.

And all of these are impossible for the Creator of the universe, the Almighty, because creating such a creation with such greatness and vastness is not the work of an incompetent; and the system as observed in the universe and the benefits that have been achieved in it could not have come into being from an ignorant, and so such a Creator can't be attributed to ignorance; and God, with such perfection and exaltation, with such grace and mercy, and with such majesty and blessing, can't be attributed to evil.

So it became clear that the Creator of this creation, of course, by good will, plans His creation, even though our intellect does not grasp the benefits of many of them, because many of the plans of kings and the wisdom of their actions are not understood by the common people, and they do not know the reasons for them, because they are not aware of the truths of their secrets. And when they do know the reason, they know that it was done out of wisdom. And from some of the behavior of kings, one can draw arguments about the actions and deeds of the King of kings.

Many Evidences Of Wisdom In Everything

If they use a medicine twice or thrice and observe the effect of heat or cold, they judge that it is hot or cold and do not doubt it. Why do these ignorant people observe so many evidences of wisdom and rightness in everything – which reason, by counting one out of thousands, admits its weakness – and do not judge the rightness of the plan and the existence of the All-Knowing, All-Mighty, All-Wise?

Even if, by an impossible assumption, the wisdom of half of what exists in the universe is hidden, yet a wise person would not judge the negligence and lack of planning of the Almighty, because the existence of wisdom and correctness which is apparent in the other half, is sufficient to judge the good planning and knowledge of the existence of an all-powerful Creator.

So how can one rule that the world was created through negligence and deny the planning by God, even though whatever you think about it and look at it with sound reason, you will find ultimate stability and perfection in it, and whatever state you imagine for the world, when you reflect on the state already it is in, you admit that it is certainly better than what you have imagined.

The Beautiful World

Know, O Mofazzal, that the name of this world in the Greek language, which is current and well-known among them, is "cosmos," and its interpretation in their language is "decoration"; and the philosophers have named the world this way because of the beauty and correctness of the order that they have observed in it. Therefore, they were not satisfied with calling it "predestination" and "order" until they called it "decoration" to inform that with the firmness and solidity that it possesses, it is at the very peak of beauty and decoration.

The Strange Doubters And Disbelievers

You must be surprised, O Mofazzal, at the group that does not condemn the lack of planning in the medical profession, even though they see that doctors make many mistakes, while they condemn the world for lack of planning, even though they do not find anything in it without planning.

And you should also be surprised at a group that claims wisdom, but when they don't understand the reason behind something in the world, they open their mouths to condemn the All-Wise Creator.

And it is strange that the disillusioned Mani claims to have knowledge of secrets, but because some of the evidence of wisdom in the creation of things remained hidden from him, he attributed creation to error and the Creator to ignorance. “Blessed is the Most Merciful, the Most Generous, and Glory be to Him, the Most High, the Great.”

And the atheists are even more strange who want to understand something which is even beyond the intellect, merely by their physical senses; and because the God, Almighty, can't be understood by physical senses, they deny Him and argue that

anything that we couldn't sense with our physical senses we don't admit its existence.

And when they are told that God can't be understood even by human reason, they say, "How can it be that something can't be understood by reason?" While as one can't see without the conditions of seeing being present, the reason can't understand a higher level than itself.

Indeed, if you see a stone rising in the air, you know that someone threw it, and this knowledge is not from observation, but rather reason dictates that the stone does not rise by itself. Don't you see that sight is powerless here and reason dictates?

Likewise, the reason has also a limit in its knowledge of the Creator that it can't exceed. Therefore, man knows with his reason that he has a Creator who created him, but he can't encompass the essence and attributes of Him.

A Problem

If they ask how He has made it obligatory for His servants to know Him with their weak intellect, while their intellect is incapable of encompassing Him, we will say that He has made it obligatory for them to know Him as much as is within their capacity and that they can handle, and that knowledge is to believe in His existence and to obey His commands and prohibitions; and He has not made it obligatory for them to know Him in His essence and attributes.

Just as a king does not require his subjects to know whether he is tall or short, white or black, but rather he requires them to acknowledge his kingship and accept his command. Don't you see that if a man comes to the king's door and says, "Show yourself to me so that I may know you well, or I will not obey you," he will certainly deserve the king's punishment?

Likewise, if someone says that he will not obey the Creator unless he knows His essence well, he will certainly expose himself to His wrath.

The Attributes Of Confession

If they say that you described Him as being wise, powerful and generous, I will reply that these are all attributes of confession, not attributes of encompassing; because we acknowledge that He is wise, and we do not know the essence of His wisdom, but rather we have imagined it in some way. Likewise, we affirm His omnipotence and other perfect attributes, but we have not known the essence of those attributes.

Just as we see the sky and judge its existence but do not know the true nature of its essence, and we see the sea but do not know its depth and its ends; He is higher than these similes, and similes fall short of Him and only guide the intellect towards knowledge.

Why Do People Differ In Describing God?

And if they ask why people differ in describing His essence and attributes, we will say that it is because their imaginations and intellects are incapable of reaching the extent of His greatness and glory, and because they have exceeded their own limits, and sought to know Him and want to encompass His essence, even though they are unable to comprehend even the matters which are inferior to Him in truth, therefore, they have been astonished and each one has spoken something out of ignorance.

The Sun As An Analogy

Among the things that are inferior to His Most Holy Essence, and yet the intellect is incapable of knowing it, is the sun that you see rising over the world, and no one knows its truth, and for this reason philosophers have spoken various things about its truth.

Some have said that it is a hollow, fire-filled, and has a mouth from which this heat and rays emanate; and some have said that it is like a cloud; and some have said that it is made of glass and accepts the image of the universe and casts its rays upon the universe; and some have said that it is a subtle body that is condensed from seawater; and some have said that it is many parts that are assembled from fire; and some have said that it is the fifth element in addition to the four known elements.

Likewise, they differed in its size. Some have said that it is as big as the Earth; others have said that it is larger than the Great Island, and the experts in geometry say that it is one hundred and seventy times the size of the Earth. So the difference in opinions about the sun is evidence that they have not found its truth correctly and have spoken based on conjecture.

If the minds of the wise are incapable of understanding the sun, even though it is visible and can be sensed, how can they find the truth of God, who is not perceived by the senses and whose glory is not accessible to reason and imagination?

Why Is God Hidden From His Creation?

If someone asks why He is hidden from His creation, we will answer that when it is said that the Holy Essence is hidden and concealed, it does not mean that He has hidden Himself, as kings hide from their subjects behind doors, curtains, and walls. Rather, it means that the Holy Essence is more subtle and sublime than the intellect can comprehend. Just as the rational soul, which is one of His creatures, is not accessible to thought and sight.

If they ask why He has become subtle and sublime from the perception, we would say that something that is the creator of everything must have the attributes of being different from all others and be higher than everything.

What Does It Mean For God To Be Subtle?

If they ask what it means for God to be subtle, we will answer that if somebody asks about a thing and seeks knowledge of it, it can be in four ways: first, to know whether it exists or not; second, to know its truth; third, to know its properties and attributes; fourth, to know the cause and purpose of its existence. And none of these aspects can be known about the Creator except that He exists.

As for the essence of God, knowing of it is impossible and seeking knowledge about it is beyond our reach. Because the Almighty Creator is the cause of everything, for Him there is no cause or end. The cause is in something that is the effect of the cause. In addition, a person's knowledge of the existence of a thing does not require knowing its truth and nature, but rather, to acknowledge its existence, knowing one aspect of it is sufficient. Likewise, we know that subtle spiritual matters exist, but we do not know their truth and nature.

If they say that from what is said about Him, it appears as if He is not known in any way, we will answer that this is so in terms of knowing His essence, and that it is not possible to encompass His essence and attributes; but in another respect He is closer to us than anything else, and His effects on us are clearer than anything else, and His existence is more evident than anything else in terms of the reasons and proofs.

So, on the one hand, He is so clear that it is not hidden from anyone, and on the other hand, He is so obscure that no one can know Him. And "the intellect" is also like that, it is apparent in evidence and hidden in essence.

An Answer to Naturalists

But the naturalists say that nature does not do anything useless and tries to bring everything to its ultimate perfection. Their

answer is that: who endowed nature with such wisdom and knowledge of the truths of things and their perfection that nothing exceeds the limits of its capabilities, and that the intellect can't reach it after much thought and countless attempts?

If they attribute to nature such intelligence and understanding that is beyond the minds of all creatures, then they have admitted what they denied and believed in God, the Creator, the Wise, the Knowing, but they have erred in His name. And if they consider nature to be unconscious and without will, as we know, then attributing these actions that conform to the laws of wisdom to an unconscious nature is clearly false; In fact, every particle of the possible particles cries out that I have a Creator, the Wise, the Knowing.

An Answer To Another False Claim

And a group of ancients denied the intention and planning of things and thought that things happen by chance and that the universe has no wise planner. Among the things they used as their argument was that sometimes children are born from females contrary to the normal course of life, such as a person who has one superfluous limb or is born with an ugly creation and is created differently from a normal human being.

They used such things as evidence to invalidate the wise planner. And Aristotle refuted them and said that something that is sometimes done based on some complications that occur in the womb is not inconsistent with what reason dictates, and since most things happen according to the law of wisdom, of course a wise planner is needed.

And you, O Mofazzal, see that most of the animals are born with two arms, two legs, and five fingers, and what rarely happens contrary to this is due to a defect that occurs in the womb or occurs

in the material from which it is made. Just as if a maker wants to make a craft, but due to a defect that is in his tools, it deviates from the original design; but this event does not contradict the plan and wisdom of the maker.

If they say that God was able to remove this defect from the womb and matter so that a child of perfect creation could be born, we would answer that He did so, so that people would know that things do not come into being by nature, which is always in one way and can't be otherwise, but rather it is a deliberate decree issued by the Creator, which sometimes does not happen as they expect, and argue that everyone needs the Creator's creation and His power to reach their ultimate perfection. "Blessed be God, the best of creators."

Final Words

O Mofazzal, take what I have given you and remember it, and be grateful to your Lord and praise His blessings, and be obedient to His friends.

Indeed, what I have explained to you about the will over creation and the evidence for the correctness of planning is a few out of many, and a part out of the whole. So reflect on it and learn a lesson from it.

I said, "With your help, O my master, I will be able to understand and memorize these." So he placed his blessed hand on my chest and said, "Remember by the will of God and do not forget, God willing."

Then I fainted and fell. When I regained consciousness, he asked me, "How do you find yourself, O Mofazzal?" I said, "With the help, support, and approval of my master, I have become free from the need for the book I had written, and everything is so present to me

that it is as if I am reading from my own words; and I praise and thank my master as he deserves."

So he said, "O Mofazzal, empty your heart and gather your intellect and confidence, and I will soon reveal to you the knowledge of the kingdom of the heavens and the earth and what God has created in them and between them, the wonders of creation, and the types of angels and their ranks and positions and degrees up to the last Sidra, and other creations from jinn and men to the seventh earth and what is under the earth, until what you have now learned becomes a part of its parts."

"And whenever you wish, go and return and be with us, and you are under the support and protection of God, and you have a high position with us, and the hearts of the believers seek you as a thirsty person seeks water. And do not ask me about what I have promised you, until I tell you myself."

Mofazzal said, "So I returned from my master with a blessing and dignity that no one had ever returned with." ■